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NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

46,720

**Charles Nevin on living through an air crash**

## Survivors

By Charles Nevin

**Health**

## A man's thing and it can kill

By [Name]

**Education**

## The surprising history of football

By [Name]

Tory Euro tensions eased

# Clarke claims tactical victory

Michael White Political Editor

**T**HE Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, last night won a vital breathing space in the Conservatives' running war over Europe. But Mr Clarke's conciliatory Commons statement only served to intensify Eurosceptic pressure on both sides to prevent sterling being sucked into the orbit of the proposed European single currency.

Mr Clarke and his allies claimed a tactical victory after he had derided the sceptics' worst fears of a sell-out, and promised to fight for "copper-bottomed" protection against any gradual erosion of John Major's Maastricht opt-out.

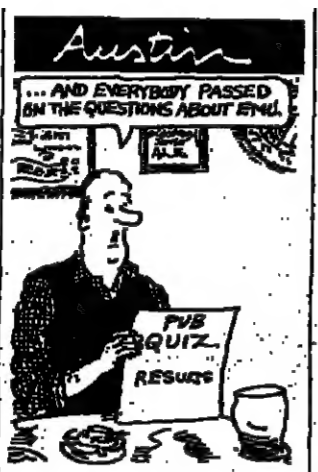
The 80-minute Commons cross-examination of the Chancellor served to ease tensions in the Tory ranks which had threatened to unsettle today's last pre-election Budget and even to precipitate a no-confidence challenge to the Government's survival.

The leading Tory factions behaved as though they had looked into the election abyss and drawn back from a public quarrel. But Mr Clarke's insistence that the Cabinet was right to keep open its options on joining the single currency "there could be advantages in such a move" drew ironic cheers from Labour and a hostile growl from Tory Eurosceptics.

In the run-up to the European Union's Dublin summit on December 13, their suspicion remains high that, under the proposed "stability pact", Whitehall may be drawn into a system of swingeing EU fines for running persistent budget deficits — even if a future British government decides to stay out of the proposed euro bloc.

"This House is entitled to debate the level of the fines, the flexibility and inflexibility of the system. That has not been debated adequately so far until this afternoon. If it had been, this needless row would have been avoided," the former chancellor, Norman Lamont, warned MPs.

Despite Mr Clarke's sympathetic, even scornful, rejection



of the past week's claims that he had been poised to sign away British options at next Monday's meeting of EU finance ministers (Ecofin) in Brussels, the sceptics are only half-reconciled by assurances extracted during what John Redwood later described as "a good day's work".

During his Commons grilling — arranged on Sunday to stem the gathering crisis — Mr Clarke dismissed suggestions that he had been saying one thing in public, another in private. He also complained about leaks that had exposed his negotiating position, and he implicitly accused the EU Commissioner, Neil Kinnock, of being the source of a paper provided for Mr Kinnock and his fellow commissioner, Sir Leon Brittan, leaked by Labour to the Sunday newspapers.

In his only fiery outburst, Mr Clarke warned against "damaging" the Cabinet's most outspoken pro-European, repeatedly assured MPs that he was keen to subject the complex single currency negotiations to the scrutiny and approval of what he called "the parliament of our independent nation state".

Significantly, he offered various reassurances, in addition to Friday night's promise to place a block, known as a "certainly reserve", on any political agreement at Ecofin

which could then be passed on to the Dublin heads of government summit — whose hosts, the Irish government, are keen to crown their presidency with some substantial progress on EU reform.

To the satisfaction of many critics Mr Clarke:

- insisted that claims that majority voting, rather than unanimity, could be used by the euro "ins" to impose fines on the "outs" was incorrect;
- promised to seek written assurances, "as copper-bottomed as we can get", that would prevent the European Court of Justice from eroding British opt-outs;
- confirmed his willingness to engage in a one- or two-day full Commons debate before the Dublin summit, probably in the week of December 9;
- revealed that the French government had moved closer to Britain's position, in resisting German pressure for large and automatic fines for states belonging to the euro system that overleap;
- Behind the scenes the Prime Minister had also worked to re-build bridges with backbenchers. In what was described as a firm but constructive meeting, Mr Major took the Clarke line when he met Sir Marcus Fox, chairman of the 1922 committee, and senior colleagues. He took the Clarke line.
- The crucial exchange was with Mr Redwood, who demanded more stringent written protection for the 1991 Maastricht opt-out.
- "Would you ensure that such words are written clearly into the face of our regulations so there can be no more legal doubt? Our record before the European Court of Justice is very disappointing and there are different legal views about the current loose wording," Mr Redwood said.
- Mr Clarke agreed. It was ministers, not the European Commission, who made the final decision. "I will seek to come back with the best possible text that puts, as you said, absolutely beyond doubt what I already believe to be the case," he said. "I agree it has to be seen to be copper-bottomed, or as copper-bottomed as we can get it."

Leader comment, page 5; Notebook, page 11

A road to nowhere . . .



A policeman looks down the blockade on the northern highway to Paris near the Roissy Charles de Gaulle airport. PHOTOGRAPH: REMY DE LA MALINIÈRE

# Airlift plan to break Channel blockade

Hundreds of British lorry drivers stranded as French police say they will intervene with tear gas

Keith Harper Transport Editor

**A**S SUPERMARKET chain plans to fly produce into Britain to beat the French lorry drivers' blockade, which intensified last night when police threatened to use tear gas to disperse British and French truckers in Calais.

Tesco announced its plans to replenish stocks of oranges, lemons and salad at its 500 outlets as talks between French transport unions and management in Paris broke down. Negotiations will not resume until tomorrow, a

union spokesman in Calais said.

After a partial blockade of Calais port yesterday, 20 British truckers withdrew to allow the sides in the dispute to continue the talks under the chairmanship of an independent official appointed by the French government. But they said they would resume the blockade from midnight if the dispute had not been resolved.

Tesco said it would start flying in foodstuffs from Spain from tomorrow if its produce continued to be held up in France. Its produce buyer, Peter Durose, said: "Little is moving, and many

of the suppliers have been caught up and food will start to go off in the lorries. We're doing all we can to help our suppliers find alternative routes out of Spain, but it's a very difficult situation."

Hundreds of British lorry drivers were holed up in Calais last night. Many expressed sympathy with their 50,000 French colleagues, who have been blockading 100 key points in France since last Monday. But the British drivers also said they were losing money and their patience was wearing.

"I've got lorryloads of fresh game that is going to waste and I'm losing money all the time," another added. "The French really know how to go about making their point that have got real solidarity, and we admire them for that but they've made their point

and we're losing out now."

French drivers last night invited the British to cross their picket line and join them in a buffet of bread, ham and beer in the 100 metre gap between the French and British blockades.

Sir George Young, the Transport Secretary, promised to press the French government for compensation for the drivers, many of whom have watched while their

loads have rotted. He told the Commons that the French transport minister had given him details of the claims that could be made, but industry sources thought that any compensation would take a long time coming and would not amount to much.

The Freight Transport turn to page 3, column 7

Drivers up arms, page 6; Not breaking on down, page 9

# Tax rises 'tot up to £39bn'

Ewen MacAskill

**T**AX rises since the last general election total £39 billion, according to an investigation by a neutral and authoritative source, the House of Commons Library.

The figure will play a key part in Labour campaigning in the run-up to the general

election, and in a pre-emptive strike against any tax cuts by the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, in this afternoon's Budget. Labour front-benchers will argue that any tax cuts are more than offset by the rises since the 1993 Budget.

Labour has for months been claiming the Conservatives have made 22 tax rises since

the last election but, surprisingly, made no attempt to cost them until now.

Alan Milburn, a Labour Treasury spokesman, declared last night: "The Tories' broken tax promises have cost people a fortune. Even if the Chancellor lowers taxes in the Budget, people will be paying more than at the last election."

# Two queens for Christmas

Andrew Culf on a comic alternative to the royal message



The Queen and the Queen of Hearts (aka Rory Bremner)

**W**HEN the royal family gather round the television at Sandringham on Christmas Day they will have a choice of viewing. On BBC1 and ITV at 3pm the head of the household will be delivering her traditional message to her loyal subjects.

But on Channel 4, the self-styled Queen of Hearts will be offering an alternative 10-minute broadcast. It will not, however, be a repeat performance of last year's Panorama interview that held 23 million viewers spellbound.

For Diana, Princess of Wales, is being invited to the screen courtesy of the satirist and mimic Rory Bremner.

Although the spoof broadcast may prove embarrassing for the princess, Stuart Cosgrove, Channel 4's controller of entertainment, said she was unlikely to find it hurtful.

"I am sure if you asked her what she thought of Rory Bremner's characterisation she would probably say she falls about laughing," he said.

Bremner has managed to perfect his impression of the princess, while he has admitted defeat in mimicking Camilla Parker Bowles.

John Willis, director of programmes, said: "The portrait will be perfectly affectionate."

The princess has not been alerted to the plan, but Mr Willis said: "It will be pretty difficult to compare this with some of the things that have happened to her over recent years."

In recent years Channel 4's alternative Christmas Day broadcast has featured veteran gay campaigner Quentin Crisp, animal lover Brigitte Bardot and American civil rights leader Jesse Jackson.

If the Queen does decide to tune into Channel 4 at 3pm, she will still be able to catch her own performance. "We always loyally show the real speech later in the day," Mr Willis said.

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2 NEWS

Sketch

Jargoning them into submission



Simon Hoggart

"I'll be like Bradman playing cricket on the village green," said one Tony left-winger. He was predicting Ken Clarke's appearance at the dispatch box yesterday, when the Chancellor was called to face the angry Eurosceptics.

Up in the distinguished visitors' gallery sat Sir James Gonsky, looking like Ernest Stavro Bioufled, a little puzzled that Michael Caine seemed to have landed the part of Bond. Next to Sir James was a dark and sinister figure, who turned out to be Patrick Robertson, the famous Eurosceptic.

One expected Sir James to lean over the gallery, stroke his platinum cat, and murmur: "I myself abhor violence in all its forms. Mr Clarke, but my associate Mr Robertson is less fastidious..."

As it was, the Dear Leader and President for Life of the Referendum Party favoured two expressions: a smile which played on his lips like a crocodile after a good lunch, and a sort of exaggerated, cynical mirth. He alternated between these while watching the Chancellor speak.

Mr Clarke blamed the press, notably the Sunday Times, which had misrepresented the documents leaked from Brussels. Who had done the leaking? Commissioner Neil Kinnock was his guess, and he would not be sending any more confidential policy papers to that office again.

It is the nature of the big parliamentary rows that they take place in reverse. Whereas the disputes the rest of us

have start off as little spats and develop into something unpleasant, it was left to a few pitch of rage and then calm down. So it was yesterday. And you can be pretty sure that the actual debate will be as exciting as a milky drink at bedtime.

For the time being, Mr Clarke jargoned them into submission. He gave them the Euro-zone, the Non-Euro Area Member State and the Stability Pact. He threatened them with the ERM Mark II. He waved the ERM Mark II in their faces. When they thought they might have got him backing into the ropes, he rallied to hit them with "a debate on a forthwith motion".

And then there was the dreaded "scrutiny reserve". "You might appreciate this Cheval Blanc '64 from my cellars, Mr Bond. Now, I don't know if the term 'scrutiny reserve' means anything to you?"

"Not even you, Goldsmith, would dare..." At times he was unreasonably frank. He wouldn't want to pay any of the proposed new fines. "We don't want any BSE financial obligations falling on a country already trying to cope with an excessive deficit," he said. He left the sceptic Bill Cash spluttering with the simple line: "My memory's going. I've forgotten your point."

Labour decided it was time to weigh in as well. Peter Shore asked whether he wanted to see a future British government hamstringed like a rate-capped council. Tony Benn warned that single currencies did not necessarily mean political unity. The dinner had held Yugoslavia together, nor had the dollar prevented the American civil war. (Nor, you might add, does Monopoly money stop people from occasionally upending the board.)

After 90 minutes the Chancellor was released. "Sorry to be so long, Ken," said the Speaker, sympathetically. After all that the Budget will seem agreeable. "Fifty pence off beer, why the hell not?" he is perhaps muttering to himself, even now.

Brief Lives. Steve Bell and Simon Hoggart's satirical look back at the political year (Methuen, £9.99), is now in all good bookshops, and some second-rate ones too.

Review

A thoroughly modern Hamlet

Lyn Gardner

Newcastle/Touring

BETTER late than never. The Edinburgh Festival performances of Robert Lepage's one-man show were cancelled when part of the stage machinery failed to work, but now, three months late, he is up to his tricks again with a visually beguiling one-man Hamlet that would make even Des Lynam ask "How did he do that?"

Most actors want to get inside Hamlet; Lepage worms his way right into the Prince of Denmark's brain. Elsinore is not just the forbidding, granite ramparts of the Danish castle but here, with a little technological wizardry, appears to dissolve and reappear before your very eyes. There are times when you think, "Hell, why didn't he just have done with it, and make a movie of Hamlet rather than a theatre piece that looks like a film." But that is presumably part of the point: this is a thoroughly contemporary Hamlet, the Prince Shakespeare might have written if he'd had access to 20th-century technology to combine with a 17th-century sensibility. This is an Elsinore that everyone knows, not just a place but a state of mind where Lepage is a free-falling, spinning Alice who pops up in the nightmarish Wonderland of his own distorting madness.

Claudius is the king of clubs. Polonius the joker in the pack, Ophelia looks like a large dolly drowning in a flood of ruffled material. The dumb scene is acted out with

Hamlet's father as a lute, the Queen a recorder and Claudius as a French horn. Lepage plays all the characters. There are moments when one is reminded of Alec Guinness in drag in Kind Hearts and Coronets. It is not a characterful performance but it has a technical bravura; the final swordfight is brilliantly done and there is a lovely moment when you see him in the library as Polonius apparently talking to his own (Hamlet's) legs. This kind of thing is clever but also purposeful, underlining the idea of the play as being about a man imprisoned in his own head, who doesn't engage with the world but talks only to himself.

But in the end, that is probably also the problem about a piece that is too often rich in image and short on meaning and emotionally icy. Like all too many plays about other plays it is reductive, self-obsessional and knotty. Hamlet is like a globe. Lepage turns it into a marble. Small is not always so interesting.

None the less, it has a highly developed sense of playfulness and fun. Lepage has a cheeky wit — anyone that dares to play every character in Hamlet and all in the same idiosyncratic French drawl has got considerable nerve — and you get the feeling he does not expect this box of tricks to be taken too seriously. It is an exercise in style, technology and the use of space in which tiling panels and sleight of hand deceive the eye. But they never pierce the heart. For all its self-conscious humour it is wizardry without enchantment, stage management, not theatre. The play, alas, is definitely not the thing.

Rising pupil exclusions costly in terms of both cash and justice

Donald MacLeod Education Correspondent

CHILDREN expelled from school are costing an estimated £40 million a year, says a report published yesterday by the Commission for Racial Equality. With boys of Afro-Caribbean origin six times more likely than their white coun-

terparts to be excluded, the commission is concerned that the rising level of exclusions is leading to injustice as well as proving expensive. A total of 13,419 children were permanently excluded in England in 1995/96, an 8 per cent increase on the previous year, said Carl Parsons, Canterbury Christ Church College, author of Exclusion from School: the Public Cost.

Ethiopian hijackers 'may have all died'

Co-pilot identifies men Comoros police holding after crash in which 125 died as innocent passengers

Agencies in Moroni, Addis Ababa and Nairobi

TWO men held for hijacking an Ethiopian Airlines plane that crashed, killing more than 120 people, may have been innocent passengers and could be released, the government of the Comoro Islands said yesterday.

The two were arrested at a hospital on Saturday, but a government spokesman, Dgouma Ibrahim, said the plane's co-pilot, Yonas Mekuria, had told police that they were not the hijackers. Mr Ibrahim said the men could be set free as early as today if authorities determine they are innocent passengers from Congo and Djibouti, as they say. This would

mean all three hijackers died in Saturday's crash. Terror struck 20 minutes after take-off from the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa, when hijackers told crew they had a bomb. The three men were in control of the plane for four hours before it crashed landed after running out of fuel.

Earlier yesterday, recovery teams dragged a large section of the wreckage of the Ethiopian Airlines jet which crashed on Saturday out of the azure waters of the Galawa Beach resort at the north end of Grande Comore island yesterday. Passengers' bodies were still buckled into their seats. Workers wore masks against the smell in the tropical heat as the middle section of fuselage was pulled on to the beach. Recovered bodies



Comorians carry a body from a section of the wreckage

were taken to a makeshift morgue in a warehouse. The Comoran police pulled out one more body yesterday morning — that of a woman in shorts, still clutching a small rucksack. Police said some bodies remained inside the front sec-

tion of the plane which, with the cockpit, was underwater. Ethiopian Airlines said that two of the 82 people pulled alive from the wreckage on Saturday have died, raising the death toll to 125. Yesterday investigators on Grande Comore were examin-

ing claims that the hijackers planned to crash the jet into a packed beachside hotel. Survivors yesterday recalled the moment when the plane hit the water. One of two British women who survived, Katherine Hayes, 30, from London, said: "All this stuff started pouring over my face. I thought, 'I've got to free myself.' Then I saw the sun shining through the water and I swam and swam." Britons feared dead are Tony Charters, aged 46, an aid worker based in Ethiopia, Andy Meakins, aged 63, from Beckenham, a charity worker, and a Manchester-born journalist, Brian Tutley, aged 61. Rekha Mirchandani, aged 29, a housewife from Bombay, and her 4-year-old daughter, Bharti, survived after squeez-

McAliskey daughter wanted

Germany seeks extradition of Roisin over mortar attack on Osnabrück

David Shearlock Ireland Correspondent

A DAUGHTER of the former Nationalist MP Bernadette McAliskey is facing extradition to Germany today on terrorist charges, including attempted murder in connection with an IRA mortar attack of a British army base earlier this year.

Roisin McAliskey, a 25-year-old graduate of Queen's University Belfast, has been questioned by the RUC under anti-terrorist legislation at Castlebar holding centre for the past six days. Yesterday an extradition warrant was sworn at Bow Street magistrates court in London and carried to Belfast. She is expected to be flown to London later today after spending one more night in Castlebar.

Ms McAliskey was wanted in Germany on charges of attempted murder and possession of explosives. She is accused of being one of at least five members of an IRA cell which carried out the mortar attack on the army's barracks in Osnabrück in June. If extradited to Germany she will be the first person to face charges in connection with the Osnabrück attack and the first in mainland Europe since the end of the IRA ceasefire in February.



Roisin (right) and Bernadette McAliskey carrying the coffin of the INLA's Dominic McGlinchey

Nobody was injured in the bombing when three mortars fired from a van fell short and failed to explode. The vehicle used to launch the attack was traced back to Ireland. Police have also issued an arrest warrant for a Scottish man, who is believed to be on the run in the Irish

Republic. Michael Dickson, aged 31, is a former sapper with the Royal Engineers. The RUC said yesterday: "The German authorities are in touch with us regarding their inquiries into serious terrorist crime in their jurisdiction. A female is in custody in Northern Ireland and an

extradition warrant has been sworn by the German authorities in London today in relation to the matter." The woman's mother, the former Mid-Ulster MP Bernadette McAliskey, said she could make no immediate comment from her Co Tyrone home when first contacted be-

cause her house was being raided by police. Later she said: "Neither Roisin nor her lawyer has been presented with any information about the existence of the warrant. I don't know what the position is until I know the warrant exists." Mrs McAliskey added: "I

am very worried about my daughter," and insisted she had never been in Germany. Bernadette McAliskey represented Mid-Ulster from 1985 and 1974, winning a by-election while still a 22-year-old student and retaining the seat at the following general election.

The then Labour Home Secretary, James Callaghan, spoke of her brilliance but his replacement, Reginald Maudling, was punched by her in the Commons.

Bernadette McAliskey was sentenced to six months' prison for incitement to riot and obstruction for her activities in Londonderry's Bogside.

In 1981 she and her husband narrowly escaped death when they were each shot several times in a loyalist gun attack on her home at Derry-laughan, Co Tyrone.

In 1994 she carried the coffin of the murdered INLA leader Dominic McGlinchey and gave the graveside oration in which she called him "the finest republican of them all". Both of her daughters, Roisin and Deirdra, also carried the coffin. Both daughters followed their mother by studying at Queen's. Contemporaries of Roisin recall her as passionately interested in the Irish language.

Roisin appeared to demonstrate that she shares her mother's jaundiced views on the peace process last year when, at a republican public meeting in west Belfast, she angrily attacked the media from the floor.

World's jobless total 1 billion

Seumas Milne and Sarah Ryle

WORLDWIDE unemployment has reached one billion, representing a crisis levels not experienced since the depths of the 1930s depression, the International Labour Organisation reports today.

The latest figure is up more than a fifth from the 1994 estimate of 820 million, and three of the global labour force is now out of work or underemployed. The ILO report blames the industrialised countries for sacrificing the goal of full employment to anti-inflation policy and feeding the swelling tide of joblessness, which is described as "neither politically nor socially sustainable".

In an explosive survey likely to alienate the ILO further from critical Western governments — including that of Britain — the Geneva-based United Nations body also argues that the growing numbers of "working poor" will aggravate economic problems and social unrest.

The ILO calls for an international commitment to reversing the escalating trend of mass unemployment and rejects the assumption that jobless growth when an economy expands, but jobs are not created — is inevitable. It blames lower growth rates in industrialised countries since the oil crisis of 1973, slow adjustment of wage levels to declining worker productivity and widespread casualisation of labour for the crisis. The ILO argues that unemployment is the most important challenge facing industrialised and developing countries equally.

Top US cardinal preaches new papal line on evolution

Martin Walker in Washington

ADAM and Eve may not have been human but some lower life form, the United States' most senior Roman Catholic, Cardinal John O'Connor of New York, has told startled worshippers at St Patrick's cathedral.

In the first formal clarification of the reformed doctrine since the Pope's stunning statement last month that "new knowledge leads us to recognise that the theory of evolution is more than just a hypothesis", Cardinal O'Connor stuck firmly to the papal line that Creation was still an act of divine will.

"It is possible that when the two persons we speak of as Adam and Eve were created, it was in some other form, and God breathed life into them, breathed a soul into them — that's a scientific question," he said. "Perhaps the spirit of God that breathed forth life into the Earth... was a lower animal."

The Roman Catholic church has never formally condemned Charles Darwin's theory of evolution. But the 1950 encyclical of Pope Pius XII, Humani Genes, warned that it was a tool deployed by atheists. Pope John Paul's statement last month foreshadowed the cardinal's explicit acceptance that humanity may have emerged from lower life forms. The new Catholic stance comes as religious conservatives, mainly from the evangelical movement, campaign for divine creation to be taught in US schools.

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Handwritten text in Arabic script: "صكنا من الامم"



BEN OKRI, 37, was born in Minna, Nigeria, and spent part of his childhood in London. He wrote his first novel, *Flowers and Shadows*, at the age of 17, returning to England two years later to study comparative literature at the University of Essex. His breakthrough came in 1991 when he was awarded the Booker Prize for his novel *The Famished Road*, his vision of an Africa slipping between nightmare and reality. His most recent novel, *Dangerous Love*, was published earlier this year. PHOTOGRAPH: DAVID SALTROE

At the age of 17, returning to England two years later to study comparative literature at the University of Essex. His breakthrough came in 1991 when he was awarded the Booker Prize for his novel *The Famished Road*, his vision of an Africa slipping between nightmare and reality. His most recent novel, *Dangerous Love*, was published earlier this year. PHOTOGRAPH: DAVID SALTROE

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Two award-winning authors have become enmeshed in a cross-Channel bust-up over plagiarism. **Matt Seaton, Dan Glaister and Alex Duval Smith** report on how claims of misogyny and racism and threats of legal action have rocked the French literary world



CALIXTHE Beyala was born in Cameroon and moved to France at 17. An activist for women's rights in Africa, the 35-year-old

last month won the Grand Prix du Roman de l'Académie Française for *Les Honneurs Perdus* (Lost Honours), her seventh novel. In

May, a court found her guilty of "partial counterfeiting" of US author Howard Butler in her novel *Le Petit Prince de Belleville*.

# Famished Road feeds French book fever

NOT even the publicity-hungry Booker Prize could have come up with the scandal that rocked the French literary world yesterday. Calixthe Beyala, winner of one of the country's most prestigious prizes, was accused by a leading literary critic of plagiarising Ben Okri's 1991 Booker winner, *The Famished Road*. The evidence: seven passages, read out on prime-time television, and the use of the word "testicles" by one author, and "genitals" by the other. The allegations led to threats of legal action and charges of misogyny and racism. Ms Beyala denied plagiarism yesterday, saying: "I know Ben Okri well. We lived in the same world and came from the same poor background." She claimed such borrowings were common in African literature and threatened to sue the man who had denounced her.

Mr Okri, however, retorted: "I don't buy that. It's not part of the literary tradition... I want people to read me, but I don't want people to steal from my work." The Nigerian-born writer said staff at his French publisher, Julliard, were scanning the two texts. "If there is a case, then it's a matter for the courts." Ms Beyala, a Franco-Cameroonian writer who has won two other major prizes, won the Académie Française's FF100,000 (£11,600) Grand Prix du Roman last month for her eighth novel, *Les Honneurs Perdus* (Lost Honours). Critics had praised it as "a new beginning for African literature". But Pierre Assolonne, editor of the literary magazine, *Libre*, and a man with a reputation for spotting plagiarism, had other ideas. In May, Ms Beyala had been successfully sued of "partial counterfeiting" a novel by the US author, Howard Butler.

On Sunday, Mr Assolonne went on television to denounce the prize-winning book. Ms Beyala, responded, accusing him of misogyny and racism. Yesterday he said: "The Académie Française should have been more careful in the light of Beyala's earlier conviction. They voted for her as one but I think they are going to regret it." The prize jury received advice from several quarters that they should be circumspect, but appeared to have satisfied themselves that Ms Beyala's work was original. "The académie has made no official comment, but there is no doubt that it comes as a severe blow to an institution which regards itself as the guardian of the French language." Mr Okri said: "If the académie were really aware of what was going on in the world of literature, they would not have stumbled into this embarrassment." But Ms Beyala continued

her counter-attack yesterday, claiming: "They're trying to destroy me." Mr Okri dismissed the charge of racism. "It's nothing to do with race. The French have honoured black writers in the past. It's a simple case; if it's proven, on textual grounds, then I suppose she'll have to run the legal gamut, deliver an apology and delete these passages." The Académie Française is not the first prize-winning body to reward an alleged case of plagiarism. Last year Australia's prestigious Miles Franklin Award for Literature was won by Helen Demidenko for her tale of her experiences as a Ukrainian Jew. However her book, *The Hand That Signed The Paper*, bore striking similarities to passages published by the Australian author, Thomas Kenneally. Ms Demidenko was revealed to be Helen Darville, from Scotchthorpe. She promptly went to ground.

**Cribbing or coincidence?** Calixthe Beyala, *Les Honneurs Perdus*: "His wife was not listening. She grabbed him by his pants and dragged him along. He attempted to free himself from this iron grip which, apart from his pants, squeezed his testicles." "After a thousand attempts to free himself manually from the grip of the fat woman, the doctor-pharmacist became filled with rage and began to proffer insults which no one understood: 'Ignoramus! Cretin! Microbe of a coefficient of three!' Then to the astonishment of all, he hit his wife." "A few men hurried to the rescue but the fat woman was faster than they." "She grabbed the pharmacist by the crotch. He screamed and without giving him time to react, she lifted him on to her shoulders and sand him flying into the dust."



encompassed his private parts. He tried to prise her fingers apart and when that failed he took to hitting her hands, screaming insults at everyone. "Then, suddenly, to our astonishment, the woman lifted him up by the pants and threw him to the ground. The crowd yelled. The man flailed, got up, shouted and huffed. Then he pounced on her, lashing at her face. Dad started towards him, but his rescue attempt was cut short. The madame grabbed the bad loser's crotch and he screamed so loud that the crowd fell silent. "Then, with a practised grunt, she lifted him on her shoulders, turned him round once, showing his mightiness to the sky, and dumped him savagely on the hard earth."

# OJ changes his story over key element of alibi

Christopher Freed Los Angeles OJ SIMPSON faced questions yesterday about why he changed his story over his alibi on the night his ex-wife was murdered. During the criminal trial last year, in which he was acquitted of stabbing to death Nicole Brown Simpson, 35, and her friend Ronald Goldman, 25, he had explained that he cut his finger running for a cell phone in his Ford Bronco just before going to the airport.

But during his second day of giving evidence in the civil suit against him, Daniel Petrocelli, counsel for the Goldman family brandished telephone records and insisted that Mr Simpson had called his former girlfriend, model Paul Barbery, at 10.09pm on the night of the murders, from his cell phone while standing outside the Bronco. Mr Simpson initially told police that he called from the vehicle, which he also denied using that night. The two were killed some time between 10 and 11 that Sunday

night in June 1994, at Nicole's house, a five-minute drive from the Simpson mansion. He now claims he removed the phone from the vehicle and called from his garden. Mr Petrocelli asked: "So your story now is that you didn't make this call from the Bronco? You're now saying you took it out of the Bronco hours before?" Mr Simpson replied: "Correct." Mr Petrocelli: "You don't want it to be there in the Bronco? If it's there at 11, then it's there at 10. And if it's there at 10 it ruins your alibi

because you're in the Bronco and not at home [as he insists]." Mr Simpson, who kept his temper during Mr Petrocelli's intense questioning, replied: "That's not true." Earlier Mr Simpson denied receiving a telephone message from Ms Barbery ending their relationship. The families of Nicole and Ronald Goldman argue that he was upset and enraged by being dumped by Ms Barbery, which he blamed on Nicole. He went round to his ex-wife's house in a highly emotional state, killed her, and then


Goldman, who came upon the scene by accident. If Ms Barbery did indeed end the affair that night, it makes a mockery of the constant use of her name during the criminal trial. It was suggested then, as a defence against Mr Simpson's alleged resentment against Nicole, that Ms Barbery maintained a loving relationship with him, and was joyfully waiting for his name to be cleared. Mr Simpson acknowledged that the two had broken up only after the acquittal when he visited her home in Florida.

He also contradicted another witness in both trials, limousine driver Allen Park. Mr Park had told of constantly ringing the doorbell outside an apparently empty house after arriving to take Mr Simpson to the airport for a late flight to Chicago. Mr Simpson had explained the dark house and his inattention to the bell by saying he was sleeping. Now he denied making that remark and said he had been in the shower between 10.35 and 10.40 when he thought he heard the intercom ring.

# Grocers plan airlift over blockade as drivers face tear gas threat

continued from page 1 Association said many small businesses faced a catastrophe, which could cost them millions of pounds if the dispute was prolonged. It feared they would face a bitter fight for compensation. The European Transport Commissioner, Neil Kinnock, admitted there was little he could do under European Union law to intervene in a national strike. But he was in touch with the French authorities. He pointed out that the EU was reviewing whether to strengthen its rules to ensure that drivers

did not exceed driving limits. Yesterday's trouble began when 20 British drivers stranded in Calais said they would not move until the French lifted their action. They backed down to allow traffic through when the French police arrived after several tense minutes. One driver said: "The port of Calais is closed. Why should we be stranded and tourists allowed to get through? Why should the French strand us and not everyone else?" French drivers are pressing for higher pay and the right to retire at 55.



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'A ban should be a last not a first resort. No person in theology who has seen the film said it was blasphemy. People should be able to make up their own minds'

Nigel Wingrove



Director Nigel Wingrove, who has been fighting for seven years to have the ban lifted, said he would not take the case further PHOTOGRAPH: DAVID MANSFIELD

# Stagg court plea to clear name

**Clare Longrigg**

**C**OLIN Stagg, who was acquitted of the murder of Rachel Nickell in Wimbleton Common in 1992, would welcome a civil court action against him to clear his name.

In an interview tonight on ITV's *Cook Report*, he says: "I would welcome a civil case. If the Nickell family was convinced I was innocent that would make me more at ease with my life."

"I have plenty of sympathy for them. I would like to meet the family and look them straight in the eye and tell them plainly I'm not guilty of this murder. I did not take their daughter's life."

For the programme, Mr Stagg, aged 33, underwent a lie detector test and responded to 20 questions he had refused to answer when cross-examined by police investigating the murder. After two days of questioning, polygraph expert Jeremy Barrett concluded he was not guilty.

Mr Stagg's wife Diane, aged 26, said that since the acquittal they have been targeted by vigilantes and subjected to verbal and physical attacks. "Since Colin was cleared, we have become virtual prisoners in our home," she said.

Mr Stagg agreed to undergo

hypnosis, and take a "truth drug". But after five hours, leading hypnotist Derek Crussell concluded he had "no intention of allowing himself to be hypnotised". He said: "Hypnosis is a co-operative thing. He did not allow himself to be hypnotised. Afterwards he told me he didn't believe he could be hypnotised: he said hypnosis was only for 'weak-willed people'. He said 'I've got a very strong mind'."

Mr Crussell said he was astonished by Mr Stagg's clinical, analytical manner. He appeared calm and in control. "He was not willing to let himself go out of control. Perhaps that's why he didn't want to take the truth drug."

Mr Stagg said he would not take the truth drug due to health concerns. A heavy drinker and smoker, he said: "I was dead against it because of the very fact of having chemicals in my body."

The interviewer, Roger Cook, asked Mr Stagg about similarities between his violent sexual fantasies, as described in letters to an undercover policeman, and the murder. Mr Stagg replied that the murder was carried out by another man with "identical fantasies".

The case against him collapsed in letters to an undercover policeman, and the murder was carried out by another man with "identical fantasies".

The case against him collapsed in letters to an undercover policeman, and the murder was carried out by another man with "identical fantasies".

# Euro-court backs film ban

**Dan Gialster and Clare Dyer**

**T**HE law of blasphemy, which can be traced back to the Middle Ages, was ruled to apply to contemporary Britain yesterday when the European Court found that British film censors had not breached the European Convention on Human Rights when it invoked the law to ban *Visions of Ecstasy*, an 18-minute film about a nun's erotic visions of Christ on the cross.

The video, which depicts the 16th century Carmelite

nun, St Teresa of Avila, embracing Christ on the cross, was refused a certificate seven years ago by the British Board of Film Classification.

The director, Nigel Wingrove, appealed, arguing that the ban not only interfered with his right to freedom of speech but was also discriminatory, because it did not cover the many other religions practised in the UK.

The last publicly funded prosecution for blasphemy was in 1922. The most recent prosecution was brought by the morality campaigner Mary Whitehouse against *Gay Times* magazine in 1976.

Mr Wingrove, represented by Geoffrey Robertson QC, received the support of the European Commission on Human Rights, but its support was overturned yesterday by the European Court of Justice in Strasbourg.

The decision, by seven votes to two, upholds the rights of national authorities to protect the religious sensibilities of their citizens, notwithstanding the convention's guarantee of freedom of expression.

Mr Wingrove said: "Censorship should be a last, not a first, resort. No theological person who has seen the film

has said it was blasphemous. The worst comment was from the Bishop of Gloucester, who said some people might find it offensive."

If Mr Wingrove had won, the Government would have had to change the law.

Tim Sackville, junior Home Office minister, said: "It vindicates the BBFC's decision to refuse to issue a certificate for a video which would break the criminal law and offend millions of people. The decision sends a clear message to the producers and distributors of such material and shows that this country's strict classification system — among the

toughest in Europe — is an effective safeguard for the public from this kind of video."

Mr Wingrove said he would not take the case further. "I happened to submit the film [to the board] at the same time as *Scorsese's Last Temptation of Christ* and *Madonna's Like a Virgin* video. I was an easy target. I had no idea that seven years later I would be reacting to a judgment of the European Court."

He said he had sold video rights to the film to Europe, Japan and the US. "Britain now has the heaviest censorship in the western world. I don't think that's anything

# Genes favour pear shaped women

**Chris Mills**  
**Medical Correspondent**

**W**OMEN with fat bottoms and thighs should reveal in their genes a risk factor for high blood pressure, diabetes and heart disease — but fat around the bottom and thighs protects against these diseases, Dr Samaras said.

The doctors, who are studying the role of genes in the development of adult illness, are confirming that the traditional pear shaped British woman — with more weight in the thighs and bottom than the stomach — is less likely to be a candidate for diabetes, high blood pressure and heart disease than apple-shaped women, who carry most of their fat around their stomachs.

Researchers from the twin study unit, at St Thomas's hospital, London, have been looking at the illnesses suffered by both identical and non-identical twins to try to separate the roles played by genes and environment.

Part of the work of the unit has been to look at the effects of diet, exercise and genes in the distribution of body fat in 350 female twins.

Kathy Samaras, an expert in risk factors for obesity and

diabetes, said the total amount of fat and the areas where it was distributed was 60 per cent dictated by genetic factors over which people had no control.

"Fat around the tummy is a risk factor for high blood pressure, diabetes and heart disease — but fat around the bottom and thighs protects against these diseases," Dr Samaras said.

She explained that stomach fat was of a different composition and was released more quickly into the bloodstream, causing a rise in blood fats.

The fat on the thighs and bottom was stable and was not constantly released into the bloodstream. Fat in the thighs and bottom was necessary for women because it provided a supply of fat to make breast milk. "Women should not try to lose this fat, it appears to be protective."

Tim Spector, head of the twin unit, said the findings did not mean people should become fatalistic about body shape and weight, and therefore give up trying to eat healthily and take more exercise. However, the genetic cards were stacked more heavily against some people, who would have to try harder than others to maintain a healthy weight.

## Opinion

**Imaginative work unlikely to be barred elsewhere**



A scene from Nigel Wingrove's film in which St Teresa of Avila imagines embracing Christ on the Cross

**Derek Malcolm**

**N**IGEL Wingrove's *Visions of Ecstasy* is a film about the shading of religious into sexual ecstasy which might well get a prize if shown at a short film festival. It might also cause controversy. But it is unlikely to be banned anywhere in Europe but Britain.

It purports to be about the state of mind of St Teresa of Avila as a troubled young novice. It has two other characters: the Psyche of St Teresa and Christ on the Cross.

St Teresa, having pierced her hand and licked the blood, writes on the ground before being seen tied by the hands with a rope from the ceiling and fondled by the Psyche.

At the same time she bestrides Christ in her imagination, lying on a grounded cross. She kisses him, being kissed in return. This will undoubtedly appear blasphemous to some and pornographic to others.

But Wingrove — aided by excellent camerawork from Ricardo Coll — is less explicit than any pornographer might wish and certainly less so than most soft porn videos that have received certificates from the British Board of Film Classification.

His purpose is clear: to make an imaginative short film which reflects physically the struggle in the young nun's mind.

On this level the film works well, borrowing techniques from classical masters like Carl Dreyer in *The Passion of Joan of Arc* and creating a formidably tense atmosphere

## Opinion

**None of this is visionary or ecstatic — just plain daft**

**Alice Thomas Ellis**

**T**S is a distasteful, offensive film — after all. "At the name of Jesus, every knee shall bow," runs the hymn. I'm glad we have blasphemy laws and I'm glad they were shown to have some teeth yesterday but they picked the wrong film to make a fuss about; it gives the film a significance of which it is entirely unworthy.

It's a completely daft film; it was supposed to be about St Teresa of Avila but it isn't. It's about a girl in a lot of make-up and not a lot of clothes (certainly not a Carmelite habit — in both senses of the word) sticking nails in her hands and hanging on a hook being fondled by another girl. A lot of flesh and a lot of blood but not a modicum of sense or purpose. Wearing little but a silly expression, she

straddles a crucifix and at some point she knocks over a chalice and licks up the contents. One cannot imagine why. None of all this is either visionary or ecstatic — just plain daft.

Before I saw this film, I was ready to rush to the defence of St Teresa of Avila, but it's just silly sadomasochism and so inept, it should just be ignored. It makes out St Teresa was an hysterical lesbian. I'm just irritated.

St Teresa, a woman of superb common sense and wit, would probably have considered it beneath her notice.

Once when a man praised the beauty of her feet, she laughed and told him to take a good look for he would never see them again. Nor was she sentimental, certainly not about women. "Experience has taught me what a house full of women is like. God preserve us from such a state," she said.

Of course I find this kind of material offensive; it's cheap, but what can I do? It should never have been made.

Alice Thomas Ellis is a Catholic commentator and novelist



A detail from Bernini's 'The Ecstasy of St Teresa'

# Mackay takes Britain's case to Europe

Ministers want more weight given to UK law and court rulings by judges in Strasbourg. Clare Dyer reports

**T**HE Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay, met judges and officials at the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg yesterday in an attempt to persuade them to give more weight to British law and court rulings.

The move follows a series of cases in which Britain has been found guilty of violating the European Convention on Human Rights.

Ministers feel judges have not given due weight to Britain's laws and traditions in interpreting the convention, and are trying to persuade other members of the Council of Europe to support them.

Lord Mackay insisted that judges and representatives of other states were receptive to his message, but officials said Britain was out on a limb in seeking to change the workings of the court.

Under Protocol 11 to the convention the two tier, part time court will cease to exist

and be replaced by a single tier, full time court once all member states ratify the protocol. Britain is seizing the opportunity in the run-up to the change to try to shape a court more to its liking.

John Wadham, director of the human rights group Liberty, said there would be a constitutional crisis if Lord Mackay sought to persuade British judges to find ways of reducing the number of rulings against the Government. Lord Mackay denied he was seeking to influence the Strasbourg judges and insisted he was merely trying to secure the best possible procedures for the new court.

Ministers were enraged in

September 1995 and came close to pulling out of the Strasbourg court deal Britain a humiliating defeat over the deaths of three IRA members on Gibraltar. It ruled by 10 votes to nine that the SAS shootings breached the European Convention on Human Rights and ordered Britain to pay their relatives' legal costs of nearly £40,000.

Ten days ago the Home Office was forced to free the Sikh activist Karamjit Singh Chahal, accused by the Government of involvement in terrorist activities, after the court ruled that his deportation would put him at risk of torture in India.

After the Gibraltar ruling ministers considered opting out or refusing to renew the right of individual petition — which allows individuals to take cases against governments to Strasbourg — but they decided to fight from within.

Hence Lord Mackay's visit to Strasbourg this week. The reform package the Government is touting includes informal vetting of judges before appointment.

Each of the 40 Council of Europe states nominates one

judge. In the past the names have been approved on the nod, but Britain wants each state to circulate them to the others beforehand and to take account of fellow members' views.

Britain is also trying to win changes to the way the judges make their decisions. It wants them to take more notice of domestic laws and traditions when deciding whether a state breached the convention. A memo to member states last spring from the Foreign Secretary, Malcolm Rifkind, citing concern about

to which states, in the light of divergent national traditions, should be left to decide for themselves on economic, moral and social issues.

Rolv Ryssdal, 80-year-old president of the court, said in a speech last year: "One form of expression — for example pornography — may be permitted in one country yet forbidden in another, without there necessarily being a violation of the convention."

This served to recognise the right of free societies, within limits, to choose for themselves the human rights policies that best suited them.

The obvious way of ensuring respect for Britain's practices, laws and traditions would be to have human rights cases heard by British judges in British courts — by incorporating the European Convention on Human Rights into domestic law.

Successive governments have refused to do so, and Britain has been dragged before the Strasbourg court more often than any other state apart from Italy and Turkey. It has lost 42 of the 81 cases brought against it.

Labour has pledged to incorporate the convention.

## Britain is trying to shape a court more to its liking

Mackay sought to persuade British judges to find ways of reducing the number of rulings against the Government. Lord Mackay denied he was seeking to influence the Strasbourg judges and insisted he was merely trying to secure the best possible procedures for the new court.

Ministers were enraged in

## 'UK out on a limb in trying to change workings of court'

"some recent judgments of the court", says Britain "would like to see certain changes to promote fairness and to ensure that the Strasbourg institutions take all factors into account".

Government concern focuses mainly on what Euro-law jargon calls the "margin of appreciation" — the extent

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# Police inquiry on sex claims at top private school

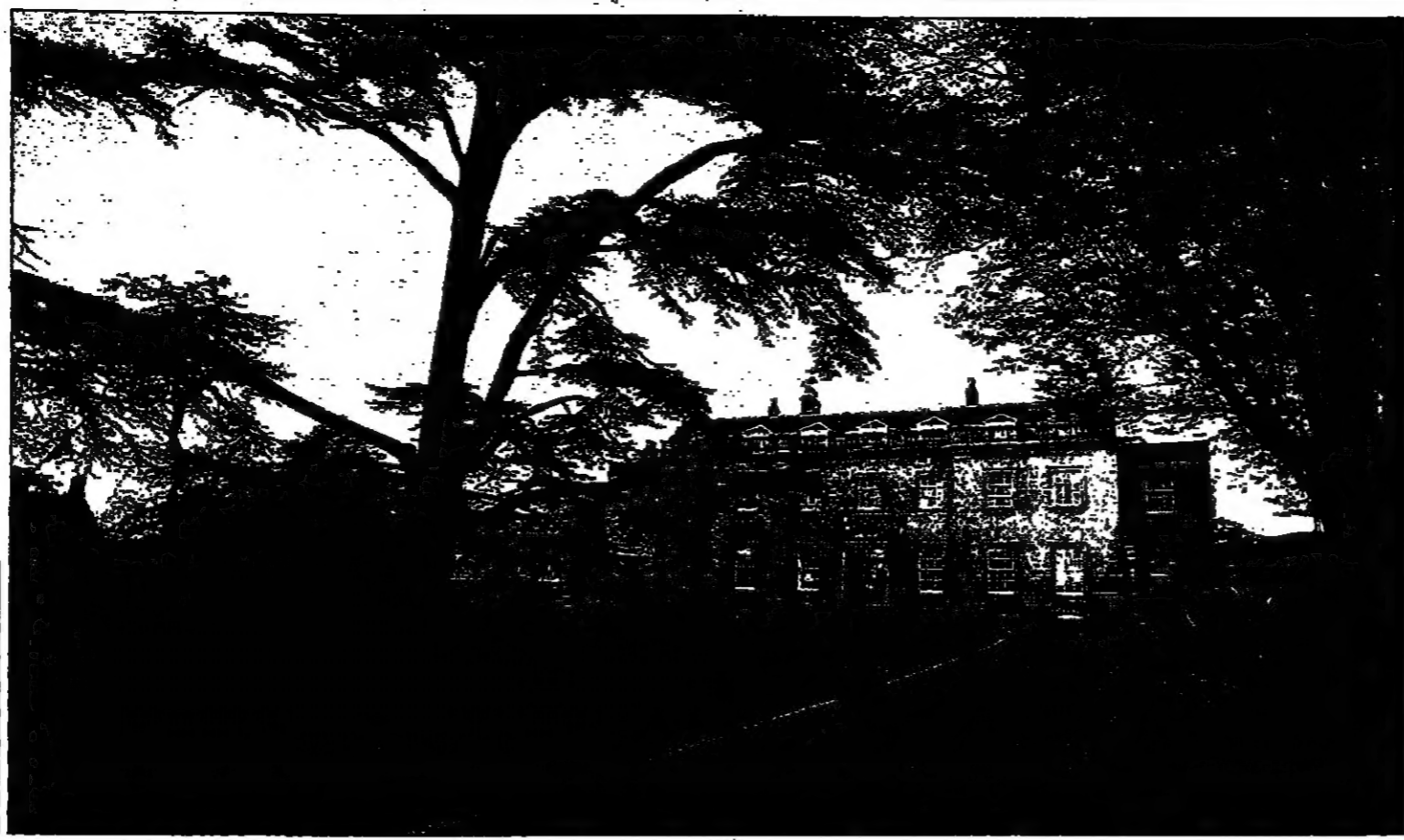
Geoffrey Gibbs

ONE of Britain's oldest and most respected independent schools was rocked yesterday by the second whiff of sexual scandal in recent months after it emerged that the police and social services were conducting a child protection inquiry into complaints about members of staff.

The investigation, which has been under way for the past two months, is looking into allegations of bullying and improper sexual remarks by two teachers at the 600-year-old Wells Cathedral School in Somerset.

The complaints are said to have been made by parents of teenage girl pupils at the 900-pupil co-educational school.

A number of parents and former pupils have been interviewed. But the inquiry, which is looking at com-



Wells Cathedral School in Somerset where police and social services are conducting a joint child protection inquiry

plaints going back over the last year and a half, has not so far uncovered any criminal action.

Sources confirmed the investigation was looking into inappropriate behaviour rather than physical abuse. News of the inquiry comes barely a month after the school's head of religious studies resigned after being

formally cautioned in connection with nuisance telephone calls to a music teacher.

The school, close to the 14th century cathedral, provides places for children from four to 18, charging about £1,800 a term for day pupils. It has been co-educational for the past 25 years.

About half the pupils are girls. The school provides

much of the cathedral's famous choir.

The school said yesterday it was co-operating with the inquiry. The two teachers have not been suspended. In a statement, the headmaster, John Baxter, and the chairman of governors, the Very Rev Richard Lewis, said: "The school takes any such complaints seriously and will

take any action necessary. It will not be appropriate for any further comment to be made at this time."

A local shopkeeper, whose 16-year-old daughter and 12-year-old son attend the school, said: "It's a small friendly community. I would have thought it would have come to light very quickly if there were any problems."

They clamp down on things so quickly."

The complaints are understood to include an allegation that one of the teachers encouraged teenage girls to sit on his knee during lessons in his private room. The other teacher is said to have made crude remarks to girl pupils and to have bullied them if they complained.

## News in brief

### Ripper may try to stop TV programme

PETER Sutcliffe, known as the Yorkshire Ripper, is considering legal action to prevent transmission of a television documentary that links him to more than 20 unsolved attacks on women.

The Yorkshire Television programme, *Silent Victims*, scheduled for broadcasting in three weeks, includes an interview with West Yorkshire's chief constable, Keith Hellawell, who has talked to the killer in prison at regular intervals for more than 10 years.

Relatives of one murdered Leeds teenager, Debra Schlessinger, who was stabbed to death 20 years ago, appeared yesterday to Sutcliffe to "own up, if he did kill her". The 18-year-old, who had no connection with prostitution, died in the garden of her parents' home after returning from an evening out with friends.

Mr Hellawell, who four years ago persuaded Sutcliffe to admit to two failed murder attempts in addition to the 13 murders and seven attempted murders of which he was convicted, makes clear in the programme his belief that the killer has more to tell. He said: "Critics believe that all we're after is convictions. What we're after is the truth."

Sutcliffe's solicitor, Kerry MacGill, said yesterday that legal action against the programme was being considered, and an approach had been made to the Police Complaints Authority about Mr Hellawell's involvement. He added that due to his client's mental condition and consequent treatment "he has no memory of any other offences". — *Martin Wainwright*

### Six-second suspect cleared

A MAN had charges of assault and theft against him dropped yesterday, after he had spent nine months under suspicion as a result of his face being seen on television for six seconds.

Andre Rocha-Miranda, a sound engineer aged 28, agreed to help a friend producing a BBC2 Newsnight edition, by airing his views on the controversial drug cult film *Trainspotting*. Within days he found himself on an identification parade, Southwark crown court in south London was told.

Having seen the programme, Frank Hogart, aged 64, became convinced Mr Rocha-Miranda had been one of two men who attacked him in the doorway of his apartment in central London last February and ripped a £22,000 diamond-encrusted platinum Rolex watch from his wrist. Mr Hogart, a retired tax lawyer, was also repeatedly punched and kicked, leaving his upper jaw shattered, several ribs broken and his body covered in bruises.

After attending the identity parade, Mr Rocha-Miranda, of Islington, north London, made two magistrates court appearances as well as appearing yesterday for trial. But after lengthy discussions between prosecution and defence counsel and brief chambers hearing with the judge, Benjamin Ains, for the Crown, announced he was offering no evidence. Mr Rocha-Miranda received an apology from Judge Jeffrey Rucker.

### Five questioned over kidnap

FIVE people arrested after a kidnap victim was freed were still being questioned by detectives in Liverpool last night. The four men, aged between 19 and 33, and a 19-year-old woman, all from the London area, were arrested after armed police used stun grenades to free Craig Allee, aged 21, who has spinal bifida, at a hotel in north London on Saturday night. His father, who lives in Haleswood, Liverpool, had been telephoned with a £51,000 ransom demand. Police said there was no immediate motive for the kidnap, although inquiries are believed to include the involvement of drugs.

Mr Allee was being debriefed yesterday in what one officer described as "a gentle process of working through events". Members of his family were also interviewed. — *Maryn Halls*

### Last holiday for sick boy

A TEENAGER who featured in an advertising campaign to raise awareness of muscular dystrophy has died of the disease on the flight home from a holiday at Disneyland. Tom Willett, aged 14, is the last of three brothers to succumb to a rare form of the disease called Duchenne. He had been taken to Florida by the charity Cloud Nine, and died an hour before the plane landed at Gatwick. His brother Barnaby died in April last year, aged 16, and their older brother, Luke, died a year earlier. All three had featured in an advertising campaign.

A spokeswoman for Cloud Nine, Liz White, said: "We knew he was very sick when we took him to America but Cloud Nine exists to give children like Tom a happy last holiday. He really enjoyed the holiday and you would never have guessed he was so ill. When he got on the flight home he seemed bright enough so it was really a shock when we found him."

### Child left with dead mother

A BOY aged three was yesterday in the care of social services after being found alone at home with the body of his mother. Police were called to a house in Ipswich, Suffolk, on Friday evening and found the body of a 26-year-old woman. They believe she had been dead for about 48 hours.

A police spokesman said the child was now in the care of Suffolk county council's social services department. It was believed the death might be drug-related.

### Mike Leigh

IN a May 1996 profile of the film director, Mike Leigh, Richard Brooks stated that Mr Leigh had claimed in a press conference to have come from a working class background. We would like to make it clear that Mr Leigh never made any such claim. He has always consistently told interviewers that he grew up as a middle class doctor's son in a working class area. We apologise to Mr Leigh for making him out to be a liar, and for any embarrassment caused.

# BA 'fall guy' in Virgin airline war sues author

Maggie O'Kane

A FORMER public relations consultant for British Airways said yesterday he was "cast to the wolves" as a scapegoat by British Airways in its row with Virgin Atlantic.

Brian Basham, who is suing the airline, says he is the author of a book on the affair, which he says brands him as a peddler of lies, claims he has already been made the fall-guy for British Airways in its £500,000 libel defeat by Richard Branson, but he will not accept being called a liar.

On the first day of the High Court case for libel brought by Mr Basham, the court heard that Martyn Gregory, the author of the book *Dirty Tricks* had described him as a "dodgy PR man" who "disseminated lies".

Patrick Milmo, QC, representing Mr Basham, told the court his client had been wrongly accused of spreading stories of Mr Branson's gay London nightclub, Heaven, and of giving a journalist untrue tip-offs that Virgin was in trouble with its creditors.

Mr Milmo said his client rejected such allegations and had wanted to set the record straight by helping Mr Greg-



Brian Basham: denies book's claim he peddled lies

ory research his book, which appeared in March 1994. In return for that help, Mr Milmo said the author had damaged Mr Basham's professional reputation by accusing him of issuing "fictitious press releases" and saving his "spicy allegations for lunch at the Savoy or a quiet drink in Annabel's".

Mr Milmo said Mr Basham, who worked for BA between 1985 and 1993, knew nothing of the dirty tricks carried out by British Airways, which had included employees masquerading as Virgin staff and pretending that Virgin flights had been cancelled and offering alternative seats on British Airways.

He added: "If he had known he would have thoroughly disapproved."

Mr Milmo said Mr Basham was accused by the book of being ruthless, pugnacious and indulging in the lap of luxury, and of professional dishonesty.

"He can take much of that but not the last — not the accusation that he is a professional liar."

"That strikes at the heart of his job, career and life's work," he added.

Mr Milmo described his client as the victim of unscrupulous journalists whose tactics included secretly taping his client.

The court heard Mr Gregory's book was "riveting stuff" that portrayed Mr Basham as the street-fighting son of a butcher but it was the "product of a vivid imagination". Calling the book a "docu-drama" which was "partly fact and partly fiction", Mr Milmo said it could not be seen as a scholarly record of the dispute between BA and Virgin.

The jury has been given two days to read the book before Mr Basham takes the stand.

Mr Gregory and the book's publishers, Little Brown and Company (UK) deny libel, pleading justification.

# Thief who died 'held face down by four police'

Owen Bowcott

A POLICEMAN knelt on the head of Wayne Douglas while he was handcuffed and held face down on the ground by at least four other officers, a south London inquest heard yesterday.

At one stage Mr Douglas, unemployed, whose death last year precipitated riots in Brixton, was heard by nearby residents to shout: "I can't breathe, I can't breathe."

The hearing continues.

A Manchester inquest jury yesterday accused the police of "neglect" after a three-week hearing into the death of Leon Patterson, aged 31, a burglary suspect who was left naked and handcuffed on a cell floor.

The coroner, Leonard Gordon, described the time Mr Patterson spent in custody in November 1992 as "dreadful", but he told the jury there was no direct link between his treatment and the cause of his death.

But the jury returned the unusual verdict of misadventure to which neglect contributed. He had earlier heard that he had suffered a "complex metabolic disorder", due to his withdrawal from heroin and to gastritis.

Investigating the civil liberties group which supports the relatives of those who have died in custody, welcomed the verdict. Deborah Coles, the organisation's director, said: "This is a damning indictment of the treatment Leon received while in the custody of Greater Manchester Police."

"To leave a human being so obviously in need of care lying naked on a cold stone floor, incoherent and his body covered in injuries for over 30 hours can only be described as cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment."

The inquest was the third inquiry into the death of Mr Patterson. The first inquest was abandoned after a few days. The second, in April 1993, recorded a verdict of unlawful killing but was overturned on appeal on the grounds that the jury had been misdirected.

# Wife who lied for magistrate husband was 'ruled with rod of iron'

A WOMAN who perjured herself to try to save her magistrate husband from conviction on a drink-driving charge was ruled by him with a "rod of iron", the Court of Appeal was told yesterday.

Anne Bosomworth, 38, was jailed for nine months in October for perjury and attempting to pervert the course of justice when she said she had been driving the couple's Range Rover when it crashed into a wall.

But her husband, John, 50, had been at the wheel. Magistrates banned him for 15

months for drink-driving, and at Leeds crown court he was jailed for 15 months for perjury.

Simon Raevel, for Mrs Bosomworth, yesterday asked the Appeal Court to reduce her sentence, and allow her to leave prison immediately. Her husband was "a very domineering partner" who was always telling her she was "thick".

Since being jailed, Mrs Bosomworth had lost 1 stone 8lb in weight and rarely slept more than three hours a night. She felt "totally be-

trayed" by her husband and had left their home in Beamsley, North Yorkshire, and before being sent to prison was living in poverty with a "boyfriend".

Mr Raevel read out a statement from a friend of the couple alleging the husband had said: "You are my bloody wife, and you will do as I tell you."

It was the husband who suggested that she gave false evidence and encouraged her to try to persuade other witnesses to say that she was driving. "Her perjury was a

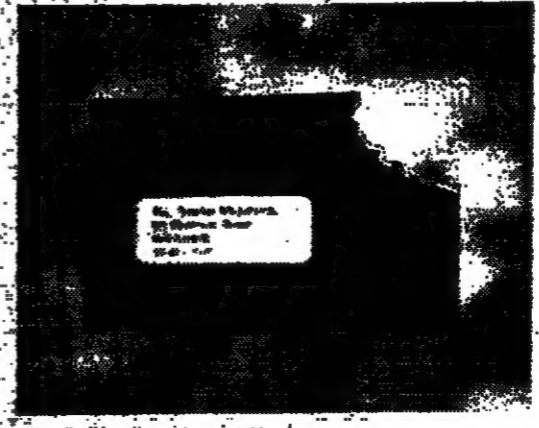
further manifestation of how this man could influence her."

Lord Justice Swinton Thomas said that although the trial judge did not know about Mrs Bosomworth's home life, lying in court demanded a heavy sentence and he could not release her immediately.

But, having read statements from friends of Mrs Bosomworth about how she was influenced by her "Victorian, domineering husband", he could cut the sentence to six months.

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Serbs on the streets



Thousands of students throw eggs and shout abuse at the Serbian television building during a protest in Belgrade yesterday. PHOTOGRAPH BY PETAR KILJANOVIC

Fury at quashed election win

Julian Borger in Belgrade

MORE than 100,000 demonstrators hurled eggs at public buildings in Belgrade last night after an overwhelming opposition victory in this month's municipal elections was quashed. It was Serbia's biggest protest since the break-up of Yugoslavia in 1991, but the monolithic Socialist regime seemed unmoved. The police folded their arms and shrugged. Street sweepers were sent to remove the sticky yellow mess left by the student assault on the city council, the television building and the headquarters of the Socialist Party newspaper. President Slobodan Milosevic, Serbia's autocratic ruler, who has orchestrated the

overturning of the election results in the courts, continued to act as if nothing had happened. The state-controlled media have treated the demonstrations of the past few days as minor distractions, and last night's protest went unreported. So far the policy of ignoring

it would promote a campaign of peaceful resistance and strikes. The students took an initial step by staging sit-ins in four university faculties. The former Yugoslav foreign minister and Zajedno adviser Ilija Djukic compared the current demonstrations to the mass protests in the first

a meeting of foreign ambassadors and Zajedno leaders yesterday but was disappointed with the result. "They listened but they said very little," he said. "They need Milosevic. He is the guarantee of the Dayton [Bosnian peace] agreement for them."

"Where are the Western powers?" asked Srđja Popovic, who at 24 would have been the youngest elected member of the Belgrade city council, had his 300-vote majority over his Socialist opponent not been overturned in court. "A lot of people were looking to the West, but a lot of people are now disappointed. Where are the election observers now?"

'A lot of people were looking to the West, but a lot of people are now disappointed. Where are the election observers now?'

the problem has worked. Opposition and student leaders argued last night how to harness the public anger collecting on the street below without sliding into anything more violent than egg-throwing. The Zajedno (Together) coalition, leading the anti-government demonstrations, said

serious attempt to remove the communist regime in 1991. "Substantial changes, however fragile, have started for a second time," Mr Djukic said. But he was uncertain what Zajedno's strategy would be, apart from ruling out violence. He had hoped to rally international support for the reform movement, organising

Disappointment with the West runs through opposition ranks. Britain and the US expressed concern when Socialist-dominated municipal courts annulled the November 17 election results in almost all the 44 municipalities won by the opposition, but the overall Western reaction is seen as low key.

French drivers up ante with border blockades

Alex Duval Smith in Paris

FRENCH lorry drivers demanding improved working conditions appeared to be trying to seal off the main land and sea routes to France yesterday, blockading Calais and Boulogne, and stiffening their action on the borders with Germany, Belgium and Spain.

With negotiations at stalemate on the ninth day of the protest, the prime minister, Alain Juppé, urged haulage companies to accept some of the drivers' demands for a shorter working week and retirement at 55.

About 700 British articulated lorries are believed to be trapped in the road blocks, which last night numbered more than 160. Yesterday, British drivers stranded in Calais briefly supported the French action to block HGV access to Channel port ferries by stopping cars from boarding.

As forecourts ran out of petrol and factories slowed production because of components and fuel shortages, the European transport commissioner, Neil Kinnock, stepped in. He said that although the commission could not intervene in a national dispute, "some of the concerns that have been expressed by the French truckers involve working conditions, such as driving time, that are the subject of European Union regulations".

The protesting French drivers—believed to number up to 50,000—want their employers to implement European agreements on working hours drawn up in 1992. They say many of them work up to 220 hours a month for no extra pay, and that they should receive overtime after 169 hours.

A fifth round of talks began last night between the French haulage companies and the five unions backing the pro-

test, but there was no sign of a breakthrough.

Mr Juppé, who has tacitly supported the strikers by appointing their choice of mediator, Robert Cros, said yesterday: "The government has done everything to get these talks under way. They must now resume and finish."

The communist-dominated CGT union has called for sympathy strikes tomorrow, and five rail unions and one taxi drivers' union called on members to support the protest. After earlier concentrating on Spanish border crossings, French drivers at German border trial Strasbourg, Lauterbourg and Wissembourg.

They intensified their blockades around oil refineries and fuel depots, blocking industrial zones in Le Havre and Rouen in the north-west, and cutting off the last petrol depot still accessible in the Pyrénées-Atlantiques region.

Corruption trial threatens Prodi

John Hooper in Rome

ITALY'S prime minister, Romano Prodi, slipped on a large peeled tomato yesterday, just as he and his ministers were congratulating themselves on manoeuvring the lira back into the European Union's exchange rate mechanism.

A prosecutor in Rome asked for him to be put on trial for abusing his position while he headed the state holding company IRI. The indictment request alleges that there were irregularities in the privatisation, three years ago, of the food companies Cirio, Barilla and De Rica.

News of the move rocked the lira as it began to trade within the limits fixed on Sunday. Share prices and bond futures were also hit.

Mr Prodi denied wrongdoing and added: "I have faith in the legal system."

Mr Prodi, who took office in May, is a former Christian Democrat from the more progressive wing which emerged—re-baptised as the Italian People's Party (PPI)—from the transformation of Italy's politics. The head of the PPI, Gerardo Bianco, made light of the accusations, saying that demanding the arraignment of public figures had become the country's "national sport".

The former prime minister Silvio Berlusconi, who is a defendant in two corruption trials, made no comment yesterday, but his ally, the former neo-fascist Gianfranco Fini, called it "an ugly business that ought not to be played down".

In every sense of the phrase, Cirio is a household name in Italy, a company which produces the canned tomatoes that end up on millions of plates of pasta.

It had been expected that the group in which it was put up for sale would be bought by one of several large national or international companies. But the IRI board declared their bids inadequate, and a 62 per cent stake in Cirio and the other firms was sold to Fis.VI, a little-known federation of co-operatives which had to raise the money to fund the deal. Cirio was later resold.

Italian news agencies said that the prosecutor, Giuseppe Geremia, had concluded that Fis.VI had gained an "unjust advantage" as a result of favourable terms applied by IRI's directors.

They said Mr Geremia had asked for Mr Prodi and five other members of the then board to be charged with complicity in abuse of office. Mr Prodi was also suspected of a conflict of interest by taking part in the decision on the sale despite a previous advisory role at the Anglo-Dutch group Unilever. The group had expressed an interest in Cirio and bought its edible oil business from Fis.VI shortly after the IRI decision.

The prosecutor's request must be reviewed by an examining judge who will decide whether to order a trial. The abuse of office offence carries a jail sentence of two to five years.

15,000 sue French mail order firm for 'stitch up'

Paul Webster in Paris

FACED with a record 15,000 plaintiffs, the owner of a French mail order firm was charged at Grasse, near Nice, yesterday with tricking customers into believing they had won lottery prizes.

The first day of the week-long trial was set aside to register the charges against Bernard Graeff, of France Direct Service, who is also accused of deceiving buyers with offers such as x-ray spectacles and magic slimming courses.

A conference hall was linked to the courtroom by closed circuit television.

In a recent civil case the company was ordered to pay €30,000 to a woman who thought she had won a lottery and ordered goods from the catalogue to be sure she received her prize.

The prosecution says France Direct Service, which employs 160 people and has a €50 million turnover, sent envelopes telling potential customers that they had won holidays, cars and cash prizes. But the small print said they had only been entered for a draw.

Mr Graeff, aged 48, allegedly compounded the offence by sending out worthless prizes in return for postal costs. More than 50,000 people who believed they had won a sewing machine sent the €15 cover charge and received a stapler in return.

Advertisement for Michelin Pilot tires. It features a large image of a tire with the 'RIB' logo and the number '44'. Text includes: 'Pilot slips into first.', 'RAC success for Schwarz on Michelin.', 'Armin Schwarz powered his Michelin Pilot-shod Toyota Celica through atrocious winter conditions to win this year's Network Q RAC Rally. It was Armin Schwarz's first victory in this rally, one of the world's most arduous events.', 'But the real winner is you the motorist. Tyres tested to the limits in motorsport ensure you get Pilots that excel in their performance on the road. Select the top gear for your car - fit Michelin Pilot high performance tyres.', 'MICHELIN Pilot' logo.

News in brief

Belarus backs Lukashenko

President Alexander Lukashenko claimed a huge victory over parliament after a referendum and the highest court in Belarus yesterday after millions of voters gave him a mandate to assume sweeping powers.

But his opponents said the vote was based on massive fraud and the outcome decreed in advance. — Reuter.

Pioneers' journey

A pioneering trade convoy arrived back in Gilgit, northern Pakistan, yesterday after a 2,500-mile return journey via Western China to the Central Asian Republics of Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan, writes John McCarthy. Not since the Bolshevik revolution closed Central Asia to the outside world has a trade caravan travelled this route.

Bungled rescue

Luis Eduardo Iglesias, a pilot whose helicopter crashed, was missing in the mountains of south-west Colombia after falling out of the army helicopter that rescued him, RCN radio said. — Reuter.

Killer recaptured

Federal police in Brazil yesterday recaptured Darci Alves Pereira, the fugitive killer of the rain forest defender Chico Mendes, as he left his sister's house in Guaira, 700 miles south-west of Rio de Janeiro. — AP.

Scientologist jailed

Jean-Jacques Maider, the former head of the Church of Scientology, was jailed for 18 months in Lyon yesterday for manslaughter and fraud in a case resulting from a follower's suicide. — Reuter.

Jobs scramble

Around 90,000 people have applied for just 2,500 unskilled jobs in Turkey's social security institution, the employment minister, Necati Celik, told a news conference yesterday. The staff are to be selected through an examination held in two football stadiums in Ankara. — Reuter.

Ebola victim dies

Marilyn Lahana, aged 46, South Africa's first victim of the Ebola virus, has died, regional health authorities announced. She caught the disease after treating a doctor from Gabon. — AP.

Advertisement for SAGA Visa Card. It features a Visa logo and a SAGA Visa Card. Text includes: 'Introducing the SAGA Visa Card SPECIAL INTRODUCTORY OFFER', 'EXCLUSIVELY FOR PEOPLE OVER 50', 'EXTRA LOW INTEREST RATE OF ONLY 11.9% APR FOR 6 MONTHS', 'FREE to obtain with no annual fee', 'Special introductory rate of 11.9% APR for 6 months', 'Guaranteed low interest rates thereafter', 'Accepted at over 11 million outlets worldwide', 'FREE additional card', 'FREE photograph option for added security', 'Cardholders can apply for SAGA's new money saving telephone service', 'Save up to 20% on UK calls (outside your local area)', 'Save between 15% and 36% on all international calls', 'Even after the first six months, the SAGA Visa Card will convert to a very competitive 16.9% APR (variable) and no matter what happens to interest rates in the future you can always rely on SAGA to offer competitive rates.', 'The credit card that gives you a great deal more Now the SAGA Visa Card is even better value with the introduction of SAGA's money saving telephone service. Free for cardholders, this new service will allow you to save between 15% and 36% on all international calls and up to 20% on UK calls outside your local area.', 'If you are aged 50 or over, whether you already hold a credit card or not, you should seriously consider how much convenience and value for money the SAGA Visa Card could offer you.', 'All comparisons are with BT's standard rates for national and international calls, and are correct at time of going to press.', 'Call NOW for your no-obligation information pack on 0800 300 225 Quote ref. 5C186 SAGA', 'SAGA Visa Card is offered subject to status and to UK residents with a permanent UK address. Beneficial Bank PLC, Registered in England No. 829255. Registered Office: Beneficial House, Gunpowder Square, Newcastle, Tyne and Wear NE1 1JG. A wholly owned subsidiary of Beneficial Corporation USA.'

سكا من الاميل







Diary

Matthew Norman

WE begin, this Budget Day, with fiscal news from the heart of New Labour. When Mandy Mandelson's The Blair Revolution: Can New Labour Deliver? came out earlier this year, you may recall that his profit-minded chum Dolly Draper set up a company, "3C", to flog copies by mail order. Having inserted 30,000 fly sheets into Labour Party mailings, Dolly sold a princely 500 copies. That's the good news. The bad news is that Dolly Draper has still to pay Faber £1,038.70 for the last batch of 200 books ordered in June. When he ignored a legal letter sent on September 30, Faber called Dolly on the number listed on his application form, but no one there had even heard of him, while a call to another number listed — that of Mandy Mandelson's office, — elicited the news that 3C no longer existed. When Dolly was finally traced to Progress magazine, on October 12, he swore to pay up within seven days. By yesterday afternoon, no payment had been received, and with Dolly uncontactable, Faber despairs as to where he might be. The Diary is unsure, but thinks it worth checking the Winchester Club in west London, long-time haunt of the "er indoors" for a Mr Arthur Daley.

A BUSY weekend looms for Kenny Ball and His Jazzmen, and whose careers the Diary and its loyal army of readers take so keen an interest. Thanks to Pat Bendavid, who writes from north London forwarding us that on Saturday night Kenny and the boys play at the Flackley Ash Hotel, Peasmarsh, Rye, East Sussex; while on Sunday, they have a lunchtime engagement at the Elgth Rocks Hotel, near west of Tunbridge Wells. Keep it up, gentlemen, keep it up.

IN shock news from the world of conundrums, Brandreth's Brainstorm, the puzzle page of my friend Giles Brandreth, fails to appear in this week's OK magazine. According to Claudia Pattison, the feature writer who took the Diary's call of protest yesterday, he has not been sacked; it is simply due to pressure of space. "Gyles won't be in every issue from now on, but he'll definitely be appearing again," she says. "It will depend on how many stories we have." What a way to treat the grava-laden Chester MP. Thank God he retains his crossword — 10 across: leads may be attached to them (7) — in Dogs Today.

I AM pleased to note that standards of clarity continue their ascent in the written English of Her Britannic Majesty's civil servants. A reader in Liverpool received a two-page letter earlier this month from Kirkby JobCentre, page one of which begins: "I am pleased to tell you that we can pay you the Jobseeker's Allowance." By way of confirming the point, meanwhile, page two starts: "I am sorry to tell you that you are not entitled to Jobseeker's Allowance." Stand by for the explanation. "This is because you have to be available for work. The law says people who have to be available for work cannot get Jobseeker's Allowance." How can the applicant get around this, though? "You should claim Jobseeker's Allowance instead." Yes, of course.

A CONTENDER steps forward for the title "newspaper correspondent of the year". Saturday's Independent carried a captivating letter from a Matthew Seward of London who, among other methods for challenging a Labour leader... so captivating, indeed, that on the same page was a second missive from Mr Seward, this time about proportional representation. Is this a record? Or has anyone managed a hat-trick?

SARAH Gutch from Twickenham kindly sends in a raffle ticket issued by the Association for Post-Natal Illness. The draw is to be made on December 30, and the 20p ticket announces that first prize will be "two nights for two in Paris, travelling by Eurostar". Second prize, meanwhile, is "What To Do In An Emergency".



SANTA CLAUS IS STUCK BEHIND A FRENCH LORRY.

# With one bound, the Chancellor was free

Commentary  
Hugo Young

SOMETHING entirely unexpected happened in the Commons yesterday. We were summoned to witness the roasting of the Chancellor. He was coming to defend the indefensible, the failure of the Government to make time for a proper debate on the next stage of the run-up to European economic and monetary union. Here was an omission he couldn't excuse, whether it was down to incompetence, prudence or cowardice.

Every faction in the House appeared united against him. The Opposition had found and leaked a set of documents — old, dull, misleading, it mattered not — into an atmosphere of explosive hysteria, which the Tory Euro-sceptics daily ignited. If Mr Clarke escaped in a vertical position it would be pinned against the wall.

Not only did he survive, he took the opportunity to bring the first small dose of reality for months to the European

debate. For an hour-and-a-quarter he delivered a series of voluble lectures to every one of his tormentors, who proved entirely unable to torment him. It had been expected, at best, that he might retort with the banal gall and bluster for which he's famous. What he did was more interesting. He began to change some of the terms of the argument.

The occasion had one dramatic effect. It swept a crucial piece of ground from under the Euro-sceptics who have taken their stand upon it. Hitherto, their prime demand has been for the Government formally to exclude itself from participation in the first round of entrants into EMU. That's the cry to be heard across the sceptic spectrum from rational to demented. It's the position they still think they can force the Prime Minister to adopt before the election. After Labour's commitment to an EMU referendum, Mr Redwood and his friends delayed not a moment before working the media circuits to call for the Tories to shift their sceptic patch by another notch and rule out membership for the whole of the next Parliament.

EMU negotiations are being conducted. In itself, that wasn't surprising. But what the entire occasion kept driving home was the inexorable force of the argument. The ostensible complaint of both Labour and the sceptics was that Parliament was being excluded from making a contribution to these negotiations. But how could they make this case while simultaneously advocating a strategy that would take both Parliament and Government away from influence of any kind? How could people be blasting about the need for debate, yet go on saying that Britain should announce to every other EU country that her interest had become entirely academic because she had no intention of joining EMU anyway?

It wasn't long before the majority of those present seemed to start understanding this. They entered into the spirit of it. Every emphasis on the danger of EMU being perverted, unbalanced, a cheat, a fraud, a conspiracy against the British, made the case for the Clarke-Major strategy. Every time Mr Clarke was driven to explain that the stability of the euro will have a critical bearing on the largest currency that stays out of it, he quailed, and eventually silenced, the sceptic position that has long pretended otherwise. Every time he alluded to the possibility of sterling one day entering

EMU, he compelled the House's grudging acceptance that it made sense for Britain to retain every scrap of leverage it has to shape the rules to which, one day, the country may submit. Even Norman Lamont agreed with him. The rules mattered. We had a huge interest in them. Why, in that case, (though Mr Lamont refrained from saying it exactly), walk away from the table?

Mr Clarke proposed a second lesson in governing. The most insouciant of ministers, he nonetheless wished to point out the disadvantages under which the House apparently wanted him to labour. They'd charged him, he said, with withholding vital documents. One notes in passing that the present frequency is capable of defining a pre-publication edition of the Brussels telephone directory as a vital document. The

In the present frenzy, an edition of the Brussels telephone directory is called a vital document

Chancellor disposed of the documents in question, by saying he would be happy to add them to the pile of Euro-material which already chokes the scrutiny process that Parliament has spent so many years refusing to reform. But there were limits to any negotiation that stood a chance of maximising the British interest. It wouldn't make sense, he thought, to expose every detail of what his night might not concede to the wily continental. There had to be a little discretion, a mite of latitude. "What

I cannot do is keep ringing up from Ecodia and trying to get parliamentary cover."

These scenes from the real life of government had a chastening effect. They won't have persuaded everybody. It's obvious that ministers hoped to get away without the kind of debate that will now take place, and I don't think they should have done so. They tried a gamble that didn't come off, and plenty of Conservative MPs will be determined to see this as another item to add to the long litany of charges going back to the Treaty of Rome that appear to them to prove that "Europe" is a conspiracy of the governing elite against the people, and now against the assembly of the people as well. The ranks of the incorrigibles, fuming bitterly, scheming impatiently, extending daily the frontiers of political paranoia, continue to mobilise on the government benches.

But yesterday, for the first time in many months, they got little purchase on the argument. Their questions were feeble, their fears extravagant, their remedies contradictory. Even as they wittered, they kept exposing the consummate fantasy at the heart of their position, which is that any attempt to dis-enthrall Britain from European discussions can be accomplished only at the cost of weakening Britain's influence on the world in which we live.

Mr Clarke was even able to refer to "parliamentary hysteria" as one of the forces now arraigning him, without in the least conceding to his side. You felt that the broad centre of the Tory Party, supposedly turning Redwoodite by the minute in its rage at what's been happening, recognised a logic it couldn't rebut. What was billed as ordered by fire turned into a modest triumph of reason.

# Time to hate thy neighbour as thyself



Francine Stock

WHY bother with community when you can use carrot and stick? Community, presumably, begins at home. Its platform is the understanding that people can get together and agree on common values. It doesn't shrink from applying sanctions to those who transgress, but in a spirit of reforming zeal; its creed is not so much toleration as homogenisation. We should all be the same. That way, we can all get along.

Community is time-consuming and difficult to implement. We haven't heard a great deal about it recently. This autumn, however, there has been cross-party consensus to crush the nasty neighbours. The Noise Act received Royal Assent last July; in September, local authorities were given clarified powers to seize equipment in the name of the law. The Home Secretary will publish the Prevention of Harassment Bill, which is primarily aimed at stalkers, but also provides jail sentences of up to five years for neighbours who threaten violence. Fines and six-month sentences will be handed out to those who refuse to turn the music or the television down.

For Labour, Jack Straw has proposed the Community Safety Order, a kind of curfew for noisy or aggressive neighbours, which could carry a maximum jail term of four years. Since fear of reprisal deters many victims from speaking up in court, another idea is the use of private detectives to collect evidence. It certainly gives a new slant to the concept of Neighbourhood Watch, putting the shadow into shadow cabinet.

The agreement to get tougher on the causes of crime — the people behind it, the places where it starts — brings the debate down to the level of individuals and what they do in their homes. This escalation of the punishment for individuals for infringement of others' civil liberties points up the differences between people, rather than binding them together in community. If someone in your street holds noisy all-night parties, it is no longer the case that the friendly neighbourhood policeman pops round for a quick word. Your only course of complaint is official. If the complaint is serious, or repeated, local authority officers go round, with a warrant if necessary, and seize the equipment. Then you really do have a dispute on your hands.

Local officers may recommend mediation, but people prepared to go to voluntary mediation are probably already prepared to settle. UK Mediation, the umbrella organisation for the 76 community units around the country, had a 34 per cent increase in enquiries last year. Even so, they only dealt with around 2,000 cases — set against 200,000 complaints to local authorities about neighbourhood noise.

The home is emerging as the next site of millennial rage. The castle, the lair, the refuge from the outside world is increasingly the place where people feel that their individuality is oppressed by others. Many of our nuisance laws were conceived in a time when the monied classes had the space to live as they pleased and nobody else had the means to argue. Tolerance — the philosophy of live and let live — wasn't so difficult for the aristocracy to practise. Now decades of brutal public architecture, flimsy social housing and large numbers out of work or retired have kept people boxed in at home. The entertainment courtesy of Toshiba, Alvin, Sany and the rest has raised noise levels. One person's Nirvana is most often another's hell. It's also true for Mantovani.

The problem has always been an individualistic society, the realisation that, even in the home, people's liberties and rights do not coincide is very difficult. Under governments that encourage individualism and discourage recourse to the state, it becomes a source of frustration and anger. Home-owners glower from behind acid-green cupressus barriers. Liberals in wide open spaces turn into Victorians within their own four walls.

BUT the solution that is held out is not the communitarian idea of improving our common circumstances; it is the punitive, divisive one of bashing the neighbour. Community as an idea works best when there is an external threat. War or the horror of an attack such as Dunblane emphasises the things we value together. Films like Independence Day glorify humanity against an alien threat. But if we all look alike from Mars, as the lens zooms in the differences between us are magnified. The monster across the garden fence becomes an obsession. The problem for the advocates of the communitarian idea is that it doesn't really sell. Far from protecting people from the unpleasant reality across the hallway or down the road, it forces them face to face with it. Crowds of other people are one at football matches, on planes or beaches. Otherwise, the British do not seem suited to the discursive, sharing language of the community. Politicians are opting instead for the atavistic cry from the armchair: let's get the bastards.

# A multi-storey story

Patrick Wright challenges John Gummer's traditional thinking about town, country and where to put the new buildings

WHEN it comes to rural fear of the encroaching city, there is still no one to beat the grandees of the 1930s. Squirrels were less inhibited in those days, especially those more or less Hitlerite defenders of English agriculture who looked out over their rolling acres and penned lurid descriptions of what would happen in the event of war, when cheap imported food would fall victim to a submarine blockade, and famine would come to England. The walls of the industrial city would break and degenerate hordes would spill out on to the land — raping and looting and eating everything in their path, right down to the rats.

That was extreme and eccentric stuff, but the rural idyll has continued to weigh heavily on the city, and in unexpected ways too. It was there during Harold Macmillan's housing boom of the 1950s, enthusiastically anticipating the urban tower blocks that would soon be going up in so many British cities. In a parliamentary discussion concerned with state subsidies for housing, the Tory Lord Hinchinbrooke argued that the programme should be shifted from houses of a kind that caused spoliation of the countryside, and concentrated instead on the creation of "ret-class flats of 12, 15 and 20 storeys" for city-dwellers who would thereby be enabled to stay in their proper place.

John Gummer prefers to talk of the civilising quality of shorter streets as opposed to executive-style closes. And yet the ardour with which he promised, on yesterday's Today programme, to confine the majority of new development to existing towns and



cities suggests that, at heart at least, he is in the tradition of those who, with heroic reluctance, to accommodate those 4.4 million new households on this crowded island, he seemed to take Nimbyism and expand it until it applied not just to his own capacious backyard in Suffolk, but to the whole English countryside.

He lamented the break-up of the family, which means that increasingly couples expect to break up into two homes "of the same standard". "We've really got to

decide whether that is tenable any longer in a country of this size," he proclaimed, without specifying what action the Government might take to put an end to that particular trend.

More practical, then, to squeeze the cities, Gummer wouldn't put it that way, but that was the spirit in which he reached for the green belt, and promised to defend it against encroachment. Physically, this may be the same green belt that was designed and put in place by post-war planners. Yet in other ways it

has changed. Theirs was part of an integrated system of town and country planning. But deregulation has intervened, and Gummer's green belt is an altogether more disengaged device than that of a cross between a corset and a new Berlin Wall, applied and frantically tightened between the leafy shores and the heaving mass of people in the city.

Gummer has called for a "real national debate" on these matters. We should begin by questioning the Government's projections for growth. The projected in-

crease in demand is contested by amenity groups like the Council for the Protection of Rural England, which suggests that these figures are exaggerated. They may not last forever. We should also note that despite his protestations on behalf of the countryside, Gummer is a member of a Government that, in reality, has been overruling county authorities which have tried to settle for lower numbers of new houses than the Government itself has proposed.

Yet the fundamental challenge is different again. We must stop thinking of the city and the country as polarised domains — as if the welfare of one is the expense of the other. This has serious implications for the organisations concerned to defend the rural areas. The CPRE responded to Gummer's announcement by expressing disappointment that he has not renounced future development even more strongly on urban areas. It also took the opportunity to reaffirm its objection to the idea of new settlements in the countryside — green-field developments like the Eagle Star insurance company is seeking to build around a railway station at Micheldever, near Beasingstoke.

The CPRE's argument is not carelessly made. Indeed, it is advanced in the belief that steering the house-building programme into urban regeneration, it should be possible to benefit both the town and the country. Yet for anything like this to happen, we urgently need to recover a sense of what planning can be — more, certainly, than yet another sad lament for the countryside, combined with a policy of bouncing the house-builders into the city.

# Urgent: children's exodus from Zaire

Can you help?

In the last week, 400,000 people have returned to Rwanda from Zaire. Among them are countless children who are hungry, vulnerable and terrified. Aid agency Children's Aid Direct are waiting to receive hundreds of children who have been separated from their parents. Executive Director David Grubb says: "This is just the beginning. As children continue to arrive, our priority is to keep them alive and then re-unite them with their families." For two years, Children's Aid Direct have been helping families in Rwanda to return to normal community life. They need your support today to help keep these refugees



Vulnerable children need your help today

Yes, I want to give the children a chance
Here is my gift of: £30 £50 £80 £250 £ (other)
Please make your cheque payable to Children's Aid Direct
OR Please debit £ from my Visa Access Switch card
CARD NUMBER:
Last three digits of Switch card no:
EXPIRY DATE: / SIGNATURE:
NAME (CAPS) MR/MRS/MIS:
ADDRESS:
POSTCODE:
TELEPHONE:
OR please phone our donation line
0990 600 610
Please send to: Children's Aid Direct
Dept No. 486, FREEPOST, Reading
RG1 1BR, Registered Charity No. 803226

# Just keep not trucking on down

Our new radical hero: the British trucker. Watch out at the barricades, warns Seumas Milne

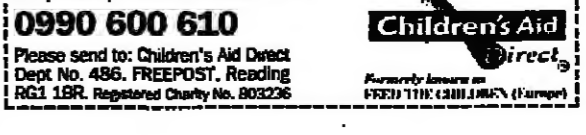
FOR anyone who imagined that large groups of workers exercising a vice-like grip on economic life went out with the Morris Marina and simply have no place in the post-modern world, the latest eruption of mass picketing by 50,000 French lorry drivers will come as a rude shock indeed. But now we know that this is no longer a quaint Continental eccentricity: for British drivers yesterday showed they could block a route as effectively as any Pierre or Jean

who joined the blockade of the port at Calais yesterday said they were grounding their jurguments out of solidarity with their French counterparts' campaign for shorter hours and earlier retirement. Others seemed to think they were doing it in protest against the French drivers' impudence at blocking them.

Either way, British drivers can scarcely avoid pressing ideas. Industrial pressure points have shifted in the economy. Dockers and steelworkers may not have the industrial muscle they had 20 years

ago, but the beloved lorry drivers have, if anything, increased their potential economic leverage. Freight has shifted overwhelmingly from rail to road and the underlying scope for successful collective action has widened since the truckers were hammered by their employers in the last national British strike 17 years ago.

Margaret Thatcher must have thought of the dangers early on, because the Tories axed the drivers' national wage-fixing arrangements almost immediately after coming to power in 1979. Since then, cowboy haulage firms have run riot in a cut-throat market, dropping back wages and conditions have been squeezed and hours extended.



Mohamed Amin

# A great operator

**W**HEN Ethiopia's long civil war reached a climax in 1991, the cameraman Mohamed "Mo" Amin, who has died aged 52 in the hijacked Ethiopian airliner crash off the Comoros Islands, was filming the rebel take-over of Addis Ababa and the shelling of the imperial palace. Mo had dramatic pictures but, since the airport and television station were closed, he couldn't get them out. He convinced colleagues in Nairobi that if they flew to join him he would make sure it was safe to land. I was aboard that plane. As we made our approach, Mo was still negotiating with the military to have buses removed from the runway. We landed safely. Just as importantly from Mo's viewpoint he now had an aircraft to take his footage to the outside world. When a rival broadcaster tried to put his pictures on the same chartered plane, Mo would have none of it. He could be charming to work with but utterly ruthless if he thought he could put one over on the opposition.

Mo Amin spent more than 30 years covering Africa's troubles, but he was closely identified with one story in particular — the 1994 Ethiopian famine. Mo was shooting for the Visnews agency at the time and Michael Buerk was reporting for the BBC. Amin's pictures and Buerk's commentary produced some of the decade's most powerful television reports, provoked an international outcry and led to an unprecedented relief effort, including Bob Geldof's *Live Aid* concert. No one else could have covered the famine as Mo Amin had. Buerk told me. He bullied, and wheedled the Ethiopian authorities to get them there and wouldn't take no for an answer. After 1984, Mo continued to cover East Africa from his Nairobi base. He was at the centre of the foreign press corps. Fiercely competitive and a master at overcoming bureaucratic obstacles in a continent where getting to the story is often the most difficult job. Ten days after the 1991 Addis Ababa takeover, as Ethio-

opia's new rulers began imposing order, a huge ammunition dump caught fire on the edge of the city. The fire burned during the night and although few journalists had transport, Mo had "borrowed" a taxi some days earlier. When the curfew ended, a small group of us drove to the scene. Mo had moved his filming position for safety reasons and there were houses on fire all round the dump. It was as we were moving from one area over to another that there was an enormous explosion. Mo had his left arm blown off, his soundman, John Mathis was killed and his second cameraman, Nick Hughes suffered a perforated eardrum. Only Michael Buerk and myself escaped unscathed. Mo, entirely in character, was determined to return to work. He was fitted with a bionic arm and had a television camera adapted to allow him to continue filming. In recognition of his courage and career, Mo Amin was awarded the MBE in 1992. It was a career which began when — as a schoolboy — he had his first front-page picture in the *Rugby* magazine in 1955. His father had worked for East African Airways. Mo went on to film the East African Rally and paradoxically — given his long association with the BBC — sold his first television footage to ITN. His life as a television news cameraman was a series of scrapes and escapes. He was imprisoned in Zanzibar; he escaped from jail in Dar-es-Salaam; he survived an unlikely number of road accidents. Mo also had — most of the time — the happy knack of being in the right place when a story happened. He is remembered in Kenya for his coverage of the assassination of government planning minister Tom Mboya. Mo arrived so quickly he was able to jump into the ambulance taking Mboya to hospital. Mo believed television journalism was worthwhile, especially when its glare was turned on the shortcomings of governments. He also derived huge enjoyment from what he did. He used to tell, for example, of a trip to East Pakistan



Tragedy revealed... Amin filming Ethiopia's starving children. His pictures and Michael Buerk's words provoked an outcry

with *Panorama*. At the border, the team could go no further without transport. Mo negotiated with fleeing refugees to buy the fire engine they were travelling on — and his filming expedition continued in somewhat orthodox style. Mo drove him-

self hard and often drove his employees harder than he should have. He ran a publishing company and undoubtedly made enemies in business. But Mo valued and maintained his friendships. His biographer and scriptwriter, Brian Tolley died with

him in the Indian Ocean plane crash. Mo Amin was a buccaneering figure, enormous fun to work with, a formidable competitor. He had survived so much — imprisonment, wars, car crashes — his friends were hoping that even this

time he would somehow wade ashore. He is survived by his wife, Dolly, and son, Sam. Colin Blaine

Mohamed Amin, cameraman, born August 29, 1943; died November 23, 1996



Maria Casarès... her vast range included Genet, Cocteau and an androgynous King Lear.

Maria Casarès

# Free spirit of the French stage

**I**T WAS an upbringing during which Maria Casarès, who has died aged 74, was brought up like a young bullcock, climbing trees, barefoot, climbing trees, barefoot, climbing trees, barefoot... This freedom and that daring helped make her a stage legend. To have seen her in demanding, tragic roles was a privilege. It was also a spiritual education, an affirmation of life itself. Maria was born into a Gallic family from La Coruna, in the far wild west of northern Spain, a region of stormy seas and shipwrecks reminiscent of Ireland's west coast. Her father, Santiago Casarès Quiroga, a left-wing atheist, died another Galician native, born just across the estuary at El Ferrol del Caudillo, Francisco Franco, the *caudillo* in person. When the tyrant finally died, in 1975, Maria wept in what she called "a vast emptiness" for all the trials her country had gone through. This period forms the opening of her magnificent 1987 autobiography, *Resistencia privilegiada* a work that stands comparison with Luis Buñuel's *Mi último suspiro* and Roman Polanski's *Roman de un soldado*. For all the family emigrated to Paris,

where Maria entered the Conservatoire and was taught staccato by the great classical actress Edwige Fenech. As soon as she set foot on a stage, Maria knew instinctively: "This is my homeland." She won prizes for acting in both comedy and tragedy. Her first success came in a 1942 production of J.M. Synge's *Deirdre of the Sorrows*. In the audience was Albert Camus, who offered her a part in his play *Le Malentendu* (1943), and in his life. Theirs was a long, idealistic, devoted companionship of two free spirits, legendary lovers, beautiful, intelligent and, in the end, tragic. "For me, he represented Man in every sense, in his vitality, passion, imagination, commitment to individual liberty of thought and speech... When he was killed, I felt the loss like an unendurable absence, a painful loneliness that made of me an adult." Marcel Carné chose Casarès to play Dubouche's wife Nathalie in *Les Enfants du Paradis*. A much bigger film part came her way when Robert Bresson, who rarely used professional actors, cast her as a sinister, deceived and vengeful wife in *Les Diables*, with another favourite, Bernard So-

bel, officiated at Le Théâtre de la Colline, where one of the auditions he named after Casarès. She triumphed in a difficult play, Jean Genet's *Les Paravents* (The Screens) directed by Roger Blin (1966), a production that created a scandal now known as "the battle of Les Paravents", and played in a revival in 1968. In 1984 she was in a television production of Genet's *Les Bonnes*. In 1990, she was playing Madame Fernelle in *Tourville* and performed the astounding feat of appearing during the mid-section of the play dressed as the Pope in Genet's posthumous satiric *Émile*, a one-acter running in the studio theatre, then returning to the main stage for her part in the fifth act of the *Moulin* comedy. Asked if she had difficulty changing from female to male and back, she replied: "For an actress playing a man is just another performance. It is the humanity I seek, not the gender." Her most extraordinary male incarnation was in the 1993 *King Lear* in which she played the king himself — wigless, beardless, androgynous, utterly compelling. Maria Casarès never renounced her Spanish nationality. When Franco died,

she returned to Spain to play in Rafael Alberti's *El Adonis* (Poppycock) and while it was one of her rare failures, it was a true act of homage to her native land. The French are fond of referring to their legendary stars as "sacred monsters". Casarès always made it clear, in life and acting, that she was no sacred cow. "All actors are monsters. They have to be, in order to change personality, change sex, every night on the rise of the curtain. They are monsters in the monstrous pleasure they take in playing at life in the limitless confinement of a theatre, supported by the often monstrous words of glorious texts. I have had the good fortune never to have been out of work, and to relish those monstrous pleasures all my professional life." But Maria Casarès was undoubtedly "sacred" in a very real sense, an actress who was the guardian of the sacred flame of the most human of the arts, the last great tragedienne to grace our lesser lives in these petty times.

James Kirke

Maria Casarès, actress, born November 21, 1922; died November 22, 1996

Patrick Johnson

# A splash in physics

**I**N OXFORD in the early 1930s, there were just six fellowships in physics plus one in towing. This was held by Patrick Johnson, who has died aged 82, and rowed in the 1927 Oxford boat. Johnson went up to Magdalen College by way of Rugby School and the Royal Naval College of Osborne and Dartmouth; and following the boat race and his graduation in physics, he was elected a fellow of Magdalen in 1936. Seemingly tough and incisive, characteristics that may have been enhanced by his naval training, he commanded the respect of undergraduates who only later came to realise his reserve and shyness. These went together with a deep sense of service. He was in the RAF Reserve 1929-1934, and the Territorial Army,

When war broke out, he became a senior member of the Army Operational Research Group and assistant scientific adviser to 21st Army Group under General Montgomery; he held the rank of lieutenant-colonel, and was awarded an OBE in 1945. In the meantime, he had become Dean of Magdalen, and on his return in 1946 he was made vice-president. His physics pupils included J.H.E. Griffiths, the discoverer of Fermi-magnetic resonance, and later president of Magdalen. In 1947, feeling that he could no longer keep up with the advance of front-line physics, Johnson left Oxford. He became, in succession, director of studies at the RAF College at Cranwell in 1947, scientific adviser to the Army Council in 1958, and assistant

scientific adviser to Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers in Europe in 1958. Following retirement in 1962, he worked extensively for the Educational Foundation for Visual Aids. He never married, but always showed an exemplary courtesy towards women — a characteristic seen by an undergraduate audience in 1981, when his energetic writing on the blackboard caused his chalk to squeak and break, provoking his involuntary exclamation of "Oh, hell!" followed by the realisation that there were women undergraduates in his audience, to whom he made the blushing and bewildering apology: "Sorry, I meant damn!" Inately modest, he was a true English gentleman, and his final hope was that his body would benefit medical research. R.V. Jones

Patrick Johnson, physicist, born May 24, 1904; died October 29, 1996

A.H. Williams

# Welsh history seen clearly

**W**ITH HIS two-volume *Introduction to Welsh History*, first published in 1943, Williams, who has died aged 89, demonstrated a mastery of the subject and clarity of thought and content which, combined with a most readable style, put generations of students in his debt. Williams read history at the University of Wales, Bangor, and, under the supervision of Sir John E. Lloyd, Dr Tom Richards and Dr Bryn Pryor, wrote an outstanding thesis, published in 1935 as *Welsh Wesleyan Methodism 1800-1858* which became a classic and marked the beginning of his lifelong interest in the subject. He helped set up a historical society and a journal, *Bathafan*, which he edited

for many years. He also backed the establishment of Tredegar's Museum of Welsh Methodism, and became an authority on the founder of Methodism, John Wesley, editing and writing the introduction to *John Wesley in Wales 1739-1790* which was published in 1971. Williams' career was spent in education. He began as a history teacher in the Gwendraeth coal valley in Carmarthenshire before becoming, at 27, headmaster of Brynffynon Grammar School, Ruthin in the Vale of Clwyd. After the war he was appointed a King's Inspector in Wales, his profession's highest accolade and by the time of his retirement in 1971 was one of the key figures in the inspectorate. Williams was exceptional,

a superb lecturer, a versatile musician — he played organ and conducted at singing festivals — skilled in crafts, a great sportsman who had played cricket for the county of Denbigh. In retirement, he visited every county cricket ground in England and Wales while supporting Glamorgan. His wife Ann predeceased him. One of his few unfulfilled ambitions was to write a cookery book. It would have been a bestseller, for his family and friends maintain that his cherry cake was in a class of its own. D. Ben Rees

Albert Hughes Williams, teacher and historian, born March 13, 1907; died October 13, 1996

Birthdays

Prof Margaret Boden, philosopher and psychologist, 60; Paul Burnett, disc jockey, 53; Lord Forte, hotelier, president, Forte plc, 88; Robert Goulet, singer and actor, 63; Lord Gowrie, chairman, Arts Council of England, 57; John Gummer, MP, Secretary of State for the Environment, 57; John Henry, co-director, Design Museum, 41; Prof Sir Harry Hinsley, historian, wartime codebreaker, former master, St John's, Cambridge, 78; The Most Rev Richard Holloway, Bishop of Edinburgh and Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church, 63; John McVie, rock musician, 51; Lord (John) Moore, former Conservative minister, 58; Jim Mullen, jazz guitarist, 51; Sir George Quigley, chairman, Ulster Bank, 67; Joyce Quin, Labour MP, 52; Charles Schultz, cartoonist, creator of Peanuts, 74; Lord Strathcona and Mount Royal,

President, Falkland Islands Trust, 73; Barbara Switzer, trade union leader, 56; Art Themen, saxophonist, 57; Tina Turner, rock singer, 58; Keith Vaz, Labour MP, 46; Peter Wheeler, rugby footballer, 46.

**Death Notices**

WILLIAMS, Sarah Marjorie, died on 18th November 1996 aged 82. Ceremony will be held on Wednesday 27th, 2.30pm, at Golden Grove, Leiston Friends Meeting House, Jesus Lane, Cambridge CB3 9JN, and afterwards at Billy Lane Lane, 111, West End, Cambridge CB3 9JN. Burial at 11.30am on 28th November aged 70. Rev Norman Karstowitz, Professor of Theology at the University of Cambridge, AFSA, FPH, FRS, after a long illness. Beloved husband, father and grandfather.

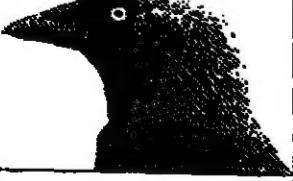
**In Memoriam**

BOGGS, Patrick. You'll be in my thoughts and in my heart, John.

**Memorial Services**

10.30am: Irish Memorial meeting, Saturday 7th December, Leiston Friends Meeting House, Jesus Lane, Cambridge CB3 9JN. Burial early and late Park and Ride. 11.30am: 23 November aged 70. Rev Norman Karstowitz, Professor of Theology at the University of Cambridge, AFSA, FPH, FRS, after a long illness. Beloved husband, father and grandfather. If you place your announcement telephone 0171 735 4887. Fax 0171 735 4128.

Jackdaw



those of the Red, Red Robin" (sic) type and like "April Showers" including "California here I come" etc. It should do you a little better. A letter sent to the London Palladium.

**Tourist trade**

THAI women are noted for their grace, gentility, politeness and caring nature. They are also caring mothers and meticulous housewives who make perfect life companions. No wonder a lot of foreign gentlemen fancy marrying Thai women. If you are among them contact Mr. Pracha. He speaks fluent English and therefore will understand your personal needs. After the initial interview, you can purchase a one-year membership card for a nominal fee, which entitles you to view his video recording of selected Thai women. If you need translation service, marriage registration, passport or visa assistance, they can have the job done in the shortest possible time. An example of Thai trade. Extract from an advert in the

Bangkok Visitors Guide. Thanks to Nicholas Edwards in Australia.

**Trip-ups**

"WORKERS of Europe, tonight I am going to tell you how to help the Allies beat the Hun in your workplace. You might not think it but you can help get the Hun on run just as well at your factory bench as the troops can at the front. This is what you do: "Take out your tools and bang them on your benches, till you've blunted the tips." "The semen has got to be got to its users quickly. It will be down to the purchasers by BOAC, in vacuum flasks surrounded by liquid nitrogen. And if the precious semen needs attention during a long flight, BOAC has very kindly arranged for his captives to top up the flasks. "... to a famous beef cattle ranch in Argentina, where the semen, from prize British dairy bulls, will be used to boost milk production. Local demand for milk is rising." "The other day of something strange going on at a whores'

hospital, so we sent Tim Bowden along with a rape recorder to find out. Reader Dick Oliver remembers certain jewels produced on air during the time he worked at the BBC World Service.

**They mean...**

- THIS needs some minor revision. I never actually got around to reading this.
- My office hours are by appointment only. I like to get out of here early.
- Ten percent of your grade is based on class participation. I'll be judging your grades.
- This won't be on the test. Nap time!
- Bring the text to class. I don't have a clue how to lecture — we'll just kill time with group read-alongs.
- The tests will all be multiple-choice.
- I take questions directly from the study guide and have grad students do all my grading. What professors say and what they actually mean. The Usual Suspects listerol joining in at education bashing.

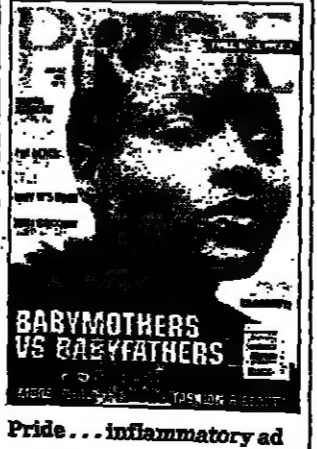
**Bad days**

WHAT HAVE Ten little Nigger Boys Got To Do With Petrol? Well, "ten little niggers" have one thing in common — they both "evaporate by degrees". But this is as far as the comparison goes. With the nigger boys the "degrees" match the dictates of fate, with Regent they match the dictates of the engine which demands the correct degree of evaporation for instantaneous starting, rapid warming up, lively acceleration and maximum economy. This balanced volatility is just one more characteristic which will help you enjoy better motoring when Regent branded petrol once more returns. Sterling Quality. Pride remembers advertising's not so old good old days.

**Way we know**

"COULD you hurry, please?" Mr Ransome said, "this is an emergency." "So is this, dear," said the woman. "I'm calling Padstow only they're not answering."

"I want to call the police," said Mr Ransome. "Been attacked, have you?" said the woman. "I was attacked last week. It's for the course these days. He was only a toddler. It's ringing but there's a long corridor. They tend to have a hot drink about this time. They're nuns," she said explanatorily. "Nuns?" said Mr Ransome. "Are you sure they won't have gone to bed?" "No, they're up and down all night having the services. There's always somebody about." She went on listening to the phone ringing in Cornwall. "Can't it wait?" asked Mr Ransome, seeing his effects halfway up the MI. "Speed is of the essence." "I know," said the old lady. "whereas nuns have got all the time in the world. That's the beauty of it except when it comes to answering the phone. I aim to go on retreat there in May." "But it's only February," Mr Ransome said. "I..." "They get booked up," explained the old lady. "There's no talking and three meals a day so do you wonder? They use it as a holiday home for religious of both sexes. You wouldn't think nuns needed holidays. Fray doesn't take it out of you. Not like bus conducting. Still ringing. They've maybe finished their hot drink and adjourned to the chapel. I suppose I could ring later only..." She looked at the come waiting in Mr Ransome's hand. "I've put my money in now." Mr Ran-



some gave her a pound and she took the other 50p besides, saying "You don't need money for 999." She put the receiver down and the money came back of its own accord, but Mr Ransome was so anxious to get on with his call he scarcely noticed. It was only later, sitting on the floor of what had been their bedroom that he said out loud: "Do you remember Button A and Button B? They've gone, you know. I never noticed." "Everything's gone," said Mrs Ransome, not catching his drift, "the air freshener, the soap dish. They can't be human; I mean they've even taken the lavatory brush." Extract from *John Alan Bennett's short story entitled The Clothes They Stoop To* printed in the London Review of Books.

Jackdaw wants jewels. E-mail Jackdaw@guardian.co.uk; fax 0171-713 4366; Jackdaw, The Guardian, 119 Parkington Road, London EC1R 3ER.

Emily Sheffield

up ante  
ockades

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# Finance Guardian

Boardrooms under fire ● Former chairman attacks 'greed' ● Anger over directors' bonus deal

## Salvesen denounced for £150m 'giveaway'

**Patrick Coleman**  
City Editor

**A** FORMER chairman and family shareholder of Christian Salvesen, Sir Gerald Elliot, yesterday denounced the transport group's plans to distribute £150 million to shareholders as "destructive manipulations for the benefit of Stock Exchange punters".

Sir Gerald, who spent his whole working life at the company, started by his forebears nearly 150 years ago, and who still holds a 2 per cent share stake, said he was so shocked at yesterday's restructuring proposals that "I question whether the board is fit to carry on".

He described the payout as "the result of City greed which is the easiest and quickest way to destroy Brit-



'I question whether the board is fit to carry on'

ish industry". Sir Gerald added that he was looking at ways of mounting an investor revolt against the plans.

The former chairman, who retired in 1988, took the unusual step of mounting a public attack after Salvesen joined the growing number of companies distributing cash back to shareholders.

Salvesen investors will get dividends worth about 64.9p a share. This is made up from the payment of a £50 million "enhanced dividend" together with a further £100 million "foreign income divi-

dent". It comes on top of the interim dividend, up 8.6 per cent, at 8.9p.

The company is also planning a demerger of its Aggreko power supply rental operation from its main transport business. This will be floated off as a separate company worth an estimated \$400 million to \$500 million.

The payout follows promises by Salvesen to look at ways of "improving shareholder value" after it beat off a summer £1 billion takeover approach from rival distribution group, Hays.

But Sir Gerald claimed that the company was pandering to the "short-term profit demands" of institutions which would have seen the value of their shares soar if the Hays bid had gone through.

"The board is concerned that if it does not go along with this bizarre blackmail, the share price will fall sharply and a predator will turn up to whom those institutional shareholders will be ready to sell," he said.

He warned that the payout could "slaughter" the company's prospects, pointing out that the proposed £150 million represented 50 per cent of Salvesen's net asset value.

"In other words, the board is proposing to repay to shareholders half the capital on which the company depends for its growth and prosperity. To find the cash, the board proposes to increase its borrowings substantially, bringing them to a debt/equity ratio of around 100 per cent," he said.

Sir Gerald added that the proposed demerger of Aggreko would result in the loss of management skills and financial support. "I cannot see that Aggreko will make more profits and grow better as an independent company than within Salvesen," he said.

And he claimed that the cost of carrying out the shake-up could result in fees of between £15 million and £20 million for financial advisers.

Salvesen announced the shake-up while disclosing that pre-tax profits for the half year to 30 September had increased by more than 14 per cent to £51.8 million. It said it would listen carefully to the views of all shareholders.

Chairman Sir Alick Rankin said that these are radical far-reaching proposals is undoubted. When effected, our shareholders' assets will be entirely reshaped and refocused."



Alan Lloyd: critics say they will wait for his exit from the company

## Lloyds Chemist hit by ethics row

**Paul Murphy**

**A** NEW row over boardroom ethics surfaced yesterday after it emerged that directors of Lloyds Chemist, led by founder and chairman Alan Lloyd, restructured their pay packages in advance of fresh takeover bids.

Institutional investors are considering raising the matter at the company's annual meeting, which is due to take place today.

Mr Lloyd and four other directors stand to pocket at least £3 million if and when takeover offers from either Unichem or German rival Gehe succeed.

"Certainly, we are tempted to kick up a stink," one leading fund manager said yesterday, referring to generous executive pay rises and the replacement of a share option scheme with a long-term executive incentive plan which was installed without shareholder approval.

But he said that public criticism of Lloyds directors was unlikely. "As things stand, with two bids on the table, we might as well sit and wait for Mr Lloyd to leave the public company scene. He has never got on with the City, and now it is almost over."

However, a Lloyds spokesman said the directors' current agreements were put in place during the summer of



last year — well before a bid in December from UniChem,

followed by an approach from Gehe in January.

In March, the takeover offers were referred to the competition authorities, causing both to lapse. The two bids were then rebuffed after a green light from the Department of Trade and Industry last month.

The incentive scheme allows for up to 50 per cent of each director's salary to be paid into a trust, with the money distributed if, after three years, shares in Lloyds Chemist have outperformed the FTSE all share index.

Under guidelines set out in the Greenbury code of corporate ethics, such incentive plans should be approved by shareholders.

### Notebook

## Other games for a Budget's eve



Edited by Alex Brummer

**B**y tradition, the eve of the Budget is a do-nothing time on the financial markets. However, this time, as the Chancellor put his final touches to the last Budget of this Parliament, there were some rather larger issues occupying the minds of traders and analysts.

Plainly, the weekend's events in Brussels, when the lira slipped back into the exchange-rate mechanism at 1:16, some commentators consider ambitious, had an effect on the pound. As the most healthy of the Euro-economies outside the ERM and the one offering the most convincing yields, London is now regarded as a safe haven and alternative to the ERM core.

This is a development which took sterling to some dizzy heights, trading at 2.5477 against the German mark and 1.8825 against the dollar, before dealers squared their books while awaiting the Chancellor.

The strength of the pound has not made Mr Clarke's task any easier. Business is increasingly disturbed by the sawtooth pound.

It is one thing if your currency is the US dollar and it rises 34 per cent against the yen, because the overseas sector of the American economy is comparatively modest.

But it is quite another when each rise in the pound means potential grief for exporters. Possibly Mr Clarke's promise in the Commons — that the UK will not shadow the euro, leaving open the possibility of future depreciation — may help in the run-up to the single currency.

Fed, however concerned it is by this mispricing of assets, dares say a word publicly. To do so with the authority of Alan Greenspan would be to take responsibility for any subsequent crash.

During this bull market London has perhaps paced itself better than New York and is likely to be a beneficiary of mutual-funds money from the US.

However, should Wall Street start to correct itself — at present levels that could be sparked by anything from an interest-rate hike to further buoyancy in the oil price — then the City will be seeking cover, too.

### Short-termism

**S**IR Gerald Elliot must be the only substantial shareholder in the history of the Stock Exchange who has ever publicly complained about a company being too generous towards its investors. And as such, the former chairman of Christian Salvesen's protests about the running of the transport company will carry considerable extra weight.

In essence, Sir Gerald is accusing Salvesen, where he spent his entire working life, of kowtowing to institutional demands for short-term profits.

Instead of husbanding resources for long-term growth, Sir Gerald claims that Salvesen is trying to curry favour with investors by divvying out £150 million of cash it cannot afford. The result will be a one-off 65p a share windfall for all investors. But it will also overload the balance sheet with a debt to equity ratio of around 150 per cent.

His charges carry particular resonance as the company itself admits that this bonanza was a direct result of the abortive £1 billion takeover approach from rival Aggreko, earlier this summer. But whereas Salvesen claims that it is "returning value to shareholder", Sir Gerald asserts that it is jeopardising its entire future by pandering to what he describes as the "greed" of stock market investors.

If Sir Gerald manages to drum up enough support, this could develop into a landmark battle over short-termism within the City.

### Banking order

**A**MONG the main reasons for the City's modern dominance as a financial centre is the invention of the syndicated European market by the Greek-born banking guru, Minos Zombanakis and his colleagues during the 1970s — a market which now raises £250 billion a year.

Small wonder, then, that Bank of England Governor Eddie George was on hand when Mr Zombanakis received Greece's one-up on a knight-hood — Commander of the Order of Honour — at a special Mayfair reception amid London's gridlocked traffic last Friday. The Club Med countries clearly have something to offer to the new Europe, after all.

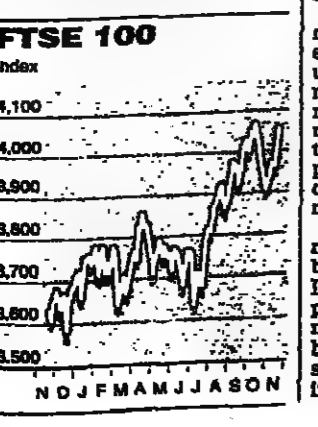
## Budget hopes push up pound

**Richard Thomas and John Hooper in Rome**

**A** BURST of eye-of-Budget City optimism sent the pound and UK stocks sharply up yesterday as dealers banked on Chancellor Kenneth Clarke delivering a "steady-as-she-goes" package this afternoon.

With a soaring Wall Street also lifting the London market, the FTSE 100 index closed up 36 points at 4064.6. At one point the pound reached DM2.5477 and \$1.8825 before profit-taking and position-squaring clipped it back to DM2.5380 and \$1.8685.

Adam Chester, an economist at the brokers Yamachi, said: "The market is taking heart from signs that Mr Clarke will not deliver tax cuts which are not matched by spending reductions."



## Dressing up the tax model

**LARRY ELLIOTT charts the history of artistic touches to past Budgets**

**T**HE economic forecasts presented to Parliament by the Chancellor today will be the handwork of some of the brightest brains of a generation and a model stuffed with equations of mind-boggling complexity.

Yet the predictions for inflation, growth and the current account will not be the raw data spewing out of the Treasury model; they will instead be the judgements of mandarins and politicians.

Not to put too fine a point on it, the Budget forecasts are subject to artistic licence, and when an election is in the offing this can be of a standard that would grace an exhibition of French Impressionists.

Consider, for example, Regie Maundling's Budget in April 1964 — presented at a time when the Conservatives were trying to claw back Harold Wilson's large poll lead.

Mr Maundling did his bit by conjuring up a colossal boom in which all the economic levers were set for expansion. But there was little hint of any such recklessness in his Budget speech.

"The combination of an increased capital outflow with a deterioration in the current account will mean a worsening of the overall balance of payments this year", Maundling intoned.

"Provided it is temporary, this should give rise neither to alarm nor dismay, and it would be very foolish of anyone to proclaim that it should."

Despite the Chancellor's call for kiltjoys to pipe down, the economy simply could not cope with the excessive demand. Inflation was 4 per cent and climbing by the election. The current account plunged into deep deficit in 1964, leaving the Wilson government with a balance of payments headache from which it never recovered.

Move on 25 years: another boom. In the spring of 1987, the economy had had six years of growth, south-east house prices were rising strongly and financial deregulation was lubricating a surge in consumer spending.

Three months before the election, Nigel Lawson announced a 2p reduction in the standard rate of income tax,

## France hopes to redeem the red legacy of Romanovs

**REMEMBER** Tsar Alexander II? Quite a few French people do. Their forebears lent him money.

By the time of Norman Lamont's second Budget in 1992, the Government had the opposite problem.

An inquiry into the data during the late 1990s had made recommendations to end the Treasury's never get it so badly wrong again.

But the official machine still failed to grasp the full, dreadful impact of the slump. Mr Lamont, searching for "green shoots" of recovery, predicted rises of 1.0 per cent in consumer spending and GDP. But the economy contracted by 0.5 per cent and spending by 0.1 per cent.

Mr Lamont's forecasts for consumer borrowing were also seriously awry, with the projected £26 billion deficit in 1992-3 ending up as a £26.3 billion shortfall. Here, though, the feeling was that this was less a genuine mistake than a juggling of the figures to justify the 2p billion tax cut which followed.

With the economy setting down, forecasting has become easier. But the luminosity of pulling day means that the temptation to put a gloss on the data becomes much stronger. Look out for some deft pointilliste brushwork from Mr Clarke today.

## Shell comes clean to its green critics

**Roger Cowie**

**S**HELL failed to gauge public concerns about the oil company's stance on the environment last night.

The company also accepted that it had been concerned about sustainable development and climate change.

"We have no option but to pursue the goal of sustainable development," said Shell UK chairman and chief executive Chris Fay. "It does seem increasingly probable that man-made carbon dioxide, largely from fossil fuels, may affect climate."

Mr Fay told last night's open meeting that the company had failed to listen to public concerns over disposal

of the Brent Spar oil platform. "We were clearly insufficiently sensitive to public concerns and the need for wider discussions."

Some 200 people from various stakeholder groups were invited to the meeting in a London hotel. The move was welcomed by critics, who have pointed out that international corporations often have private meetings with campaign groups.

But Shell's comments last night on climate change are unlikely to meet the demands of environmentalists.

Greenpeace director Peter Melchett said: "I'd like to hear that they are getting out of oil in the light of climate change. But I'll be surprised if Shell announces its recognition of the carbon arithmetic and the beginning of the end of the oil industry."

### WEB WISE

Visit our website for more news, analysis and tax tips. You can also access our Coopers & Lybrand web site for more information about the Budget on the internet.

For more information on the Budget visit our website at [www.guardian.co.uk/budget](http://www.guardian.co.uk/budget)

TOURIST RATES — BANK SELLS

Australia 2.01	France 8.36	Italy 2.481	Singapore 2.20
Canada 2.50	Germany 2.455	Japan 1.35	Spain 2.0755
Cyprus 0.7475	Greece 2.275	Netherlands 2.775	Sweden 11.01
Denmark 9.23	Hong Kong 12.85	Norway 10.49	Switzerland 2.07
Finland 7.61	India 50.01	Portugal 201.05	Turkey 122.363
	Ireland 0.9705	Saudi Arabia 8.57	USA 1.6460
	Israel 5.48		

Supplied by NatWest Bank (including Indian rupee and Israeli shekel).

Dockyard's future brighter as new owner Babcock secures work worth £500m from Government

# MoD sells Rosyth for £25m



Portillo: Saving £100m

David Fairhall  
Defence Correspondent

**B**ABCOCK International yesterday secured £500 million of work for the Rosyth naval dockyard in Scotland under a deal to buy control of the yard from the Ministry of Defence.

The group which has managed Rosyth for the MoD since 1987 — concluded two years of talks with the Government with a deal believed to be worth about £25 million. But to clinch the agreement, Defence Secretary Michael Portillo has had to agree to a 10-year "allocated" work programme that in-

cludes refitting two aircraft carriers and a pair of nuclear-powered hunter-killer submarines — work valued at about £500 million. The submarine contracts will keep the Scottish dockyard in the nuclear business for some years yet, after losing out to Devonport to build a refitting facility for the navy's Trident ballistic missile submarines. The Babcock yard's allocated programme will also include destroyers, frigates and a variety of smaller warships.

Announcing the sale in a speech to the Scottish Grand Committee in Cupar, Fife, yesterday, Mr Portillo said it would save £100 million of taxpayer's money over 10 years. He added that the deal should be signed by Christmas, with Babcock taking possession of the yard early next year.

Though the Rosyth workforce, which lobbied the meeting, was wary about Mr Portillo's pledge, Brian Negus, union convenor, said: "It's a good day for Rosyth. At least we have a chance to secure our own future. Under the MoD we had none."

Privatisation means that 3,200 MoD employees will now find themselves working for Babcock Rosyth Defence, part of Babcock International's facilities management division. The division also runs a dockyard for the New Zealand Navy in Auckland, under a 10-year management contract and two former British Rail maintenance depots purchased last year in a joint venture with Siemens. The railway depots contribute £80 million to a total annual turnover of about £200 million.

"We are delighted to have secured ownership of the facility," the division's managing director, Allan Smith, said, "and look forward to managing its future success."

## Dissidents on Emap board win strong ally

Lisa Buckingham

**T**HE two non-executives fighting for survival in the boardroom of media group Emap yesterday won powerful backing when the investment adviser, Pirc, recommended that resolutions to oust the dissidents be opposed.

The rest of the Emap board, led by chairman Sir John Hoskyns, are supporting resolutions to remove Professor Ken Simmonds and Joe Cook as non-executives at an extraordinary meeting in a week's time.

Divisions over changes to the group's articles of association — making it easier to sack non-executives and to reduce their number on the board — have plagued Emap since the early summer.

Professor Simmonds and Mr Cook, who have a combined 28 years with the company, opposed the change of articles because they feared it would weaken the position of non-executives. They are now under threat and, until Pirc's intervention, seemed to have little shareholder support.

## Takeover rocks Swedish politics

Mark Miller  
Deputy Financial Editor

**A**HIGH level row has broken out over plans for a £2 billion merger which could transform Sweden's financial services industry. The proposed takeover by insurance group Skandia of mortgage bank Stadshypotek, in which the state has a 34 per cent stake, immediately came under fire from finance minister Eric Asbrink.

Before Mr Asbrink's move, some analysts suggested that the Skandia bid could open the way to further takeovers in the sector. "This is the break in the log-jam — others will follow," said one yesterday. Others have not ruled out the possibility of a rival bid for Stadshypotek, though the board of the mortgage bank is backing the Skandia bid terms.

# 'Cement roof' blocks potential corporate high-fliers

WORKFACE/Ethnic barriers costing Britain dear, says MARTYN HALSALL

**K**AMLESH Bahl knows all too keenly the ugly face of racial discrimination in the British workplace. She came third among 200 students taking law finals at Birmingham in 1976, submitted 250 applications for posts as an articled clerk, and was the only person in her year not to be offered a job.

Eventually she found employment with the now-defunct Greater London Council and 20 years later she has become the chairwoman of the Equal Oppor-

portunity campaign has shown how British companies are losing business as people from the ethnic minorities feel alienated by corporate employment and marketing policies.

Backed by a long list of leading companies — including Midland Bank, BT and British Airways — it reported recently that the appeal of mainstream brands and high street convenience stores was undermined by "feelings of exclusion caused by advertising messages, product ranges, customer services and employment policies."

Advertising still ignored ethnic minorities, who rejected "tokenism" and found some advertising images offensive.

"The sense of exclusion is reinforced by wider feelings of prejudice and rejection, based on practical experiences of discrimination, particularly in employment," the report said.

## Clinton salutes Apec trade deal

Nick Cunningham-Bruce  
in Manila

**P**RESIDENT Clinton emerged from a summit of 18 Asian and Pacific Apec leaders to adopt a deadline for cutting tariffs on information technology that their ministers had earlier resisted — even with the let-outs provided by the carefully hedged language of the leaders' statement.

US officials hailed Mr Clinton's success in persuading Apec leaders to adopt a deadline for cutting tariffs on information technology that their ministers had earlier resisted — even with the let-outs provided by the carefully hedged language of the leaders' statement.

Information technology already worth \$100 billion (330 billion) a year and two million US jobs in the sector.

"We feel that if we are not ready we will not have to submit to the deadline."

## Amey and McAlpine share tram contract

News in brief

**A** £175 MILLION contract to build the 17-mile Croydon Tramlink system in south London over the next three years has been awarded jointly to a consortium including the construction firms Amey and Sir Robert McAlpine. The consortium, which also includes the Royal Bank of Scotland, has also been awarded a 99-year concession by London Transport to operate the service.

The Government will provide a grant of £125 million. Amey's chairman, Neil Ashley, said part of the grant would be paid to the consortium and part to London Transport for its share in the construction work. Thereafter the consortium would have to run it without a subsidy. — Keith Harper

**D**UKE Power Company, the US utility that considered buying British Energy with the Government earlier this year, yesterday bought Par Energy Corp for \$7.7 billion (£4.6 billion) in stock, combining one of America's largest natural gas companies with one of the biggest electric utilities. The new company will be known as Duke Energy Corporation. — Bloomberg

**S**KETCHLEY, which reported a half-year profit rise from £4.3 million to £4.8 million, plans to have 200 joint dry cleaner/SupaSnap outlets open in Sainsbury stores over the next three years. Chief executive John Jackson said: "We believe that convenience is very important where they [consumers] park and drop off their clothes fairly easily."

## Carlton buys Action Time

News in brief

**M**ICHAEL Green's Carlton Communications yesterday topped off its weekend takeover of the Westcountry franchise by announcing another TV acquisition — the purchase of the production company Action Time. The company — which boasts a roster of mainly game-show programming such as Through the Keyhole and Catchphrase — is being acquired for £3.45 million but Carlton is liable to a further £4.3 million of performance payments.

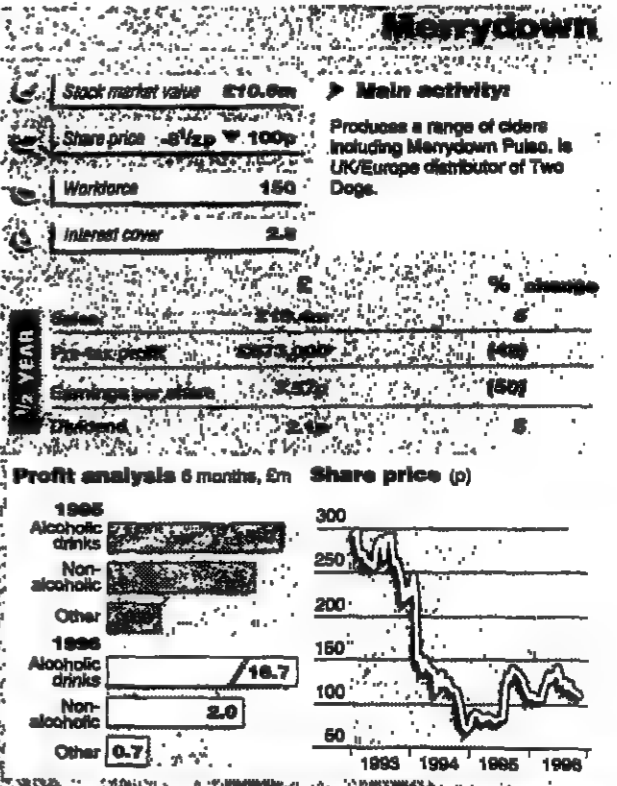
Action Time's equity is owned by its three directors, who will remain with the group despite being a collective £2.8 million richer. — Lisa Buckingham

# Merrydown's profits hit by alcopop war

OUTLOOK/Fizz  
leaves Two Dogs  
brewer, reports  
Lisa Buckingham

**I**T TAKES no particular feat of memory to recall the drubbing given by the stock market to the shares of cider maker Merrydown Clark. Then the wounds inflicted on the performance of Clark's major brands, Diamond White and K, were blamed on the success of so-called "alcopops" — fizzy drinks which allow alcohol to be introduced into the bloodstream while by-passing the taste buds.

effort cost about £750,000, yet income from the brand fell. Variations on the original brand are being introduced in an effort to rekindle sales growth. But clearly this costs money. And Merrydown's half-year figures also had to absorb the impact of a programme of discounts on the canned Two Dogs to allow the cheaper variant to be introduced.



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COURT  
NAME

# Tennis Graf leaves brave new era struggling for credibility

**Chris Bowers says  
the women's game  
may be kidding itself  
over its strength**

**S**TEFFI GRAF's fifth WTA Tour championship title, achieved with a five-set victory over Martina Hingis on Sunday night, lifts her another notch higher in the estimation of tennis historians but leaves a few questions about the state of the women's game.

Those promoting the Corel WTA Tour view the situation with optimism, seeing a new generation of youngsters ready to take the world's top-earning sport for women into a brave new era. Heading that generation is Hingis, the 16-year-old Swiss who has made phenomenal progress over the last three months and whose passage to the final of the Chase Championship has taken her to fifth in the year-ending women's rankings (she is listed as No. 4 but four players are above her, Monica Seles and

Arantxa Sanchez Vicario sharing No. 2). Graf cited Hingis, the best New York semi-finalist Iva Majoli and Chanda Rubin, who narrowly failed to qualify for the 16-woman championship, as the flag-carriers of the new generation. To them must be added Venus Williams, 16, and Anna Kournikova, 15, who are making rapid progress. Yet new may not mean better. The appeal of Graf's match against Hingis, which the German won 6-3, 4-4, 6-0, 6-0, was in the clash of styles. Both are effectively baseliner players but Graf favours slice on her backhand while Hingis hits through hers with two hands. Both are keen to bring their opponent to the net, but in different circumstances. The danger with the new generation is that they all play the same way. An example came in the first-round match between Majoli and Anke Huber — both players blasted the ball from the baseline, there were two drop shots and not one volley. Such matches are not rare. Yet Graf's continued presence at the top of the tree and the revival of Jana Novotna at the age of 28 could sustain the women's game for another couple of years. Novotna in particular is the last world-class player comfortable at the net in singles and, like Martina Navratilova, when she plays a new-generation player the clash of styles is interesting. The question of strength in depth continues to dog the women's circuit. The tour has profited in the last decade from some wonderful matches, many equal to or better than those of their male counterparts, but they tend to come in the later rounds of tournaments. Television producers who take an interest only from the quarter-finals help show the



Feeling the strain... Graf, nursing a twisted knee in the fourth set, prevailed for a fifth WTA Tour title

women's game in the best light and spectators, following it chiefly from that stage, may get a falsely favourable impression. Perhaps the format of the men's and women's end-of-year championships — the eight best men play a round-robin leading to semi-finals and final while the 16 best women play a knock-out competition — ought to be the other way round. With the men, first-round knock-out tests between Sam-

pras and Martin, or Becker and Courier could make the ATP Tour Championship more exciting in the first couple of days. Even with such changes, Graf would still probably win. Yet, at the end of a year in which she has struggled with persistent injuries to her back and left knee, does her continuing dominance mean she is outstripping or that the rest of the women's field ought to be stronger? "I don't know whether the other players ought to be disappointed," said Graf, "but more exciting in the first couple of days. It's been a crazy year as well, and in a way I'm glad it's done. In another way, in terms of what I've done in tennis this year, I topped last year. It was so much more difficult physically. From that perspective I really outdid myself. Next year my health is my priority."

# Racing Poor fields a taxing problem for courses

**Ken O'Neil**

**O**n the day when owners and trainers are looking for Kenneth Clarke to reduce the betting tax in their favour, a mere 23 horses turned out at Cheltenham this afternoon when £43,000 added prize money is on offer. On Saturday two other premier jumping courses, Ascot and Aintree, were short of runners and one wonders if more money should be spent trying to produce better ground which would attract more competitive fields that would increase betting and boost the horse racing levy. Bookmakers are hoping that any tax reductions will be passed on to punters, which should produce more turnover for their shops and the government coffers. With the advent of gaming machines in betting shops, plus betting on the Irish Lottery numbers becoming popular with punters, bookmakers cannot have too much to belay about. Racing, however, does not benefit from profits from gaming machines or the Irish Lottery, so the need for more competitive fields is imperative. Philip Arkwright, clerk of the course at Cheltenham, is concerned about the state of the ground and has called in the West Yorkshire-based Sports Turf Research Institute to check over the course. "Our agronomist Mike Harbridge will be making a routine visit during the week," said Arkwright. "But in the light of the small fields at the Murphy's Gold Trophy at Cheltenham and the conditions of this afternoon's Peterborough Chase certainly favour him."

# No joy as Griffiths is banned

**DAVID GRIFFITHS** was booed by Wolverhampton racegoers yesterday after throwing away a race he should have won. The apprentice rider was banned for five races and fined £1,000 after failing to ride out Dragonjoy in the second division of the claiming stakes. Dragonjoy was well clear entering the final furlong, but Griffiths, in his efforts to give his mount an easy time, failed to notice Houdou (Dec 4-14) after failing to ride out Dragonjoy in the

# Cheltenham with form for the televised events

1.00 Blenheim Stakes	2.45 Cheltenham Handicap
1.05 Grand National	3.00 Handicap
1.10 Grey Scaevole	3.05 Handicap

1.00 CHELTENHAM HANDBICAP OF THE YEAR HANDICAP (10) 11.45-12.00  
1.05-1.10 BLAZER BOMBERS (10) P 11.45-12.00  
1.11-1.15 BLAZER BOMBERS (10) P 11.45-12.00  
1.16-1.20 BLAZER BOMBERS (10) P 11.45-12.00  
1.21-1.25 BLAZER BOMBERS (10) P 11.45-12.00  
1.26-1.30 BLAZER BOMBERS (10) P 11.45-12.00

# Lingfield (All-weather)

11.50 Ascot Power	2.00 Puritan
12.20 Downland	2.05 Puritan
12.50 Newmarket	2.10 Puritan
1.25 Doncast	2.15 Puritan

11.50 ASCOT POWER (10) 11.45-12.00  
12.20 DOWNLAND (10) 12.15-12.30  
12.50 NEWMARKET (10) 12.45-13.00  
1.25 DONCAST (10) 1.20-1.35

# Results

1.00 CHELTENHAM HANDBICAP OF THE YEAR	1.05 GRAND NATIONAL
1.10 GREY SCAEVOLE	1.15 BLAZER BOMBERS
1.20 BLAZER BOMBERS	1.25 BLAZER BOMBERS
1.30 BLAZER BOMBERS	1.35 BLAZER BOMBERS
1.40 BLAZER BOMBERS	1.45 BLAZER BOMBERS

# Huntingdon card with TV form

12.40 Huntingdon Handicap	1.15 Health Spa Water Novices
1.00 Handicap	1.25 Handicap

12.40 HUNTINGDON HANDICAP (10) 12.35-12.50  
1.00 HANDICAP (10) 1.00-1.15  
1.15 HEALTH SPA WATER NOVICES (10) 1.15-1.30  
1.25 HANDICAP (10) 1.25-1.40

# Results

1.00 CHELTENHAM HANDBICAP OF THE YEAR	1.05 GRAND NATIONAL
1.10 GREY SCAEVOLE	1.15 BLAZER BOMBERS
1.20 BLAZER BOMBERS	1.25 BLAZER BOMBERS
1.30 BLAZER BOMBERS	1.35 BLAZER BOMBERS
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12.40 HUNTINGDON HANDICAP (10) 12.35-12.50  
1.00 HANDICAP (10) 1.00-1.15  
1.15 HEALTH SPA WATER NOVICES (10) 1.15-1.30  
1.25 HANDICAP (10) 1.25-1.40

# Screen

Derek Malcolm reviews the latest film releases

# Wolverhampton

12.50 (11) 12.50-1.00  
1.00 (11) 1.00-1.10  
1.10 (11) 1.10-1.20  
1.20 (11) 1.20-1.30  
1.30 (11) 1.30-1.40

# Wolverhampton

12.50 (11) 12.50-1.00  
1.00 (11) 1.00-1.10  
1.10 (11) 1.10-1.20  
1.20 (11) 1.20-1.30  
1.30 (11) 1.30-1.40

# Wolverhampton

12.50 (11) 12.50-1.00  
1.00 (11) 1.00-1.10  
1.10 (11) 1.10-1.20  
1.20 (11) 1.20-1.30  
1.30 (11) 1.30-1.40

Soccer

Major backs bid for 2006 World Cup

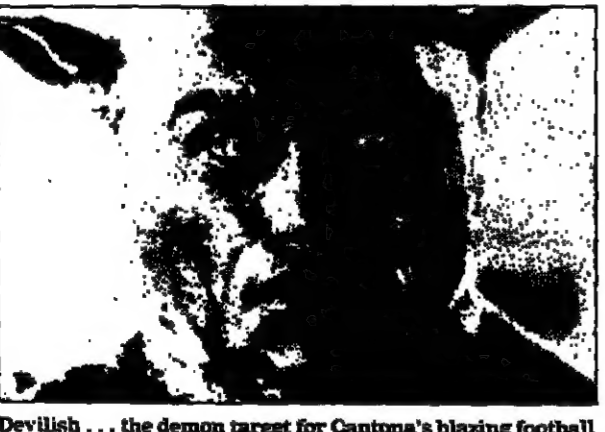
Michael Walker

THE Prime Minister John Major last night told the Football Association he would "strongly support" its bid to bring the World Cup to England in 2006.

Nike just does it in bad taste, says Fifa

Neil Robinson

TO Eric Cantona, Paolo Maldini and Patrick Kluitert it was a nice little earner ahead of Euro 96; to the sportswear company Nike it was a demonstration of good versus evil.



Devilish... the demon target for Cantona's blazing football

Table with 2 columns: Pool/Division and Team names. Includes sections for Pools Forecast, National League, and Scottish Premier Division.

Team talk

Table with 3 columns: Team, Score, and Opponent. Lists various football teams and their recent match results.



Back in the gym... Graham launches his comeback in Sheffield tonight

Hot pots by Williams

Twice he launched frame-winning breaks from safeties with which Bond would have been well satisfied and was 6-1 up before the world No. 5 hit back with a 77 break.

Results

Table of sports results including Soccer, Golf, Basketball, Chess, and Wrestling.

Table of fixtures for various sports including Soccer, Basketball, and Chess.

I have to find out if I can still do it, says Bomber on a mission

Herol Graham is donning the gloves again at the age of 37 and after four years in retirement. Gavin Evans finds out why

HEROL GRAHAM rolls up a leg of his trackman pants and runs a finger along newly plucked flesh. "It's so-o-o smooth," he says, his face creasing into a mischievous grin.

when the Virgin Islander, noted as the biggest puncher in the division, produced one desperate right to the jaw that knocked Graham cold.

McLean falls by Way's side

MICHAEL McLEAN joined his school, friends and family in professional limbo yesterday and Gordon Sherry is in danger of following them after lacklustre fifth rounds in the PGA European Tour Qualifying School at Sunningdale.

Athletics

ANDREW PEARSON will head a British team seeking to sustain the revival of the nation's cross-country fortunes at the European Championships in Chaperol, Belgium, next month.

Sailing

Britain's Chris Law lost 3-1 to Paul Cayard of the United States in the Stejneger/Line 7 in a three-day grand prix final off Auckland.

Boxing

Lennox Lewis's rematch with Oliver McCall for the vacant WBC title has been postponed until January 24 to February 7 at a venue to be chosen from Wembley Arena, Las Vegas and Atlantic City.

Vertical text on the right edge of the page, including 'Engl', 'Taylor', and 'W'.

Cricket

David Hopps says no excuses will be tolerated as Mike Atherton's tour party head for Zimbabwe and New Zealand in search of respectability

England in fear of a bleak midwinter

UNLESS cricket's growing appetite for expansion has brought overcast Test recognition for Malaysia and the Falkland Islands, and England wisely opt for an immediate detour...

Now Illingworth has departed, chuntering into a Spanish sunset, Atherton belatedly has the authority that his responsibilities merit. Not that Illingworth has omitted to provide a parting gift...

The Tour

ENGLAND SQUAD: M Atherton (capt), S Hoggins (vice-capt), J P Crawley, M V Watson, J P Taylor, M J Gidman, A D B Cook, D Ganga, A D B Cook, D Ganga, A D B Cook, D Ganga...

contrast to the previous A tour to Australia four years ago which was a huge embarrassment. Even such a habitué of the tour as Rod Marsh, the Australian Academy's head coach, has praised not only the A squad's ability but also their determination.

management," was Reeve's assessment. Limited-overs cricket is not Atherton's forte, and Pakistan was not Illingworth's, but it would be too simplistic to dismiss Reeve's evaluation...

that England should win in Zimbabwe. A two-Test series likely to be played on slow pitches can quickly develop into a stalemate, and the farmers will be anticipating the December rains. But Zimbabwe's overriding need to expand their cricketing base insists that they must abandon the safety-conscious attitudes that have marked their formative years as a Test nation.

David Houghton, approaching his 40th birthday, is Zimbabwe's one batsman of high calibre and he is yearning for the itinerary foisted upon them for England to foster such a collective spirit, although David Lloyd's uplifting presence as the coach should help enormously and Ian Botham's motivational qualities will also be welcomed by players who idolised him in their youth.



Atherton... test of calibre

years; his 10 Tests have brought 53 wickets at less than 20 runs apiece. If England's batsmen can negotiate Streak, and do not twitch at the first sight of Paul Strang's leg-spin, the rest of their pace attack should not be too demanding.

Australia v West Indies: first Test, fourth day

Taylor sets a record target for Lara v Warne

WEST INDIES negotiated a substantial hurdle at The Gabba yesterday evening, losing only one wicket and keeping the scoreboard ticking over until Australia captain Ian Taylor asked them to make 420 in the best part of four sessions. In 1,339 previous Test matches over almost 122 years only two sides have made in excess of 400 in Test.

Stanley Street end after only nine overs and immediately the ball began to spit out of footmarks. It was his fourth over — one of mixed fortune — that produced the wicket. With Warne dropping short, Samuels had pulled him over the leg-side for six and then four to bring up the half-century partnership but, in attempting the shot again, he top-edged the ball straight to Paul Reffel on the square-leg boundary who barely laid a mitt on it, the ball rolling over the boundary rope for four.

He got off the mark by drilling Reffel through mid-on and then when the bowler tried to slant one across his bow, descended on to one knee and lashed it through extra-cover, a stroke that for sheer theatre will not be bettered this series. In the penultimate over of the day he twice laid back and pulled Warne savagely to the mid-wicket fence.

Bacher backs table talk THE league-table competition for Test-playing nations proposed by the editor of Wisden, Matthew Engel, has been backed by South Africa.

Scoreboard table showing runs, wickets, and overs for both teams in the first and second innings.

For Australia the two innings of most significance came from the debutant opener Matthew Elliott and Michael Bevan. Both were desperate to make an impression as neither scored in the first innings. This time Elliott played comfortably for more than an hour, reaching 21, until Ian Bishop swung one back through his stiff attempt at an on-drive.



Bailed out... the debutant Elliott, after a duck in the first innings, is bowled by Bishop for 21 in the second

England's 273 for three was never threatened by the home side in the face of some tidy bowling from Jonathan Powell of Essex, who took three for 38 off his nine overs, and Durham's Stephen Harrison, whose seven overs with the new ball cost 25 runs.

RAC Rally

Schwarz finishes best in slow lane after power failure

THE FIRST half of Armin Schwarz's season offered nothing but frustration and the second half nothing but success, yet even the runaway RAC Rally leader yesterday found that this event bites.

Rugby Union

Bath draw revitalised Irish in cup

BATH will stage the only all-League One clash, against London Irish, when the fifth round of the Pilkington Cup is played on December 21.

Ice Hockey

Blaisdell rumpus provokes official call for stick gauges

NICO FOEMEN, the BHA technical director, has said he will ensure that custom-made stick-measuring gauges are delivered to all British referees later this week in response to a furious row involving Ayr's Markus Berwanger at the weekend.

Rugby Union

Rowell adds Ubogu and Dawson to squad

VICTOR UBOGU may make an unexpected international comeback for England against the New Zealand Barbarians at Twickenham on Saturday, writes Robert Armstrong.

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# Sports Guardian

## RALLY'S END



Fire escape... Martin Brundle's debut in the Network Q RAC Rally came to a sudden end shortly before dawn yesterday when the engine of his Escort Cosworth burst into flames after the car careered into a ditch on the first stage near Hafren in Wales. The extinguisher in the car wouldn't work, said a spectator who helped pull the grand prix driver and his co-driver Roger Freeman from the wreck before dragging down the next car to put out the blaze. Both men escaped with cuts and bruises. Report, page 15 PHOTOGRAPH: STEPHEN LEE

Premiership: Nottingham Forest 2, Blackburn Rovers 2

## Cooper saves bargain Forest's bacon

David Hopps

TWO goals in three second-half minutes seemed to have transformed Blackburn's night. Gallacher equalising and Wilcox apparently providing the winner to a match that neither side could afford to lose. But then, with Rovers counting the benefits of a six-pointer that would have lifted them clear of the basement and above Coventry, Cooper equalised for Forest from point-blank range in the dying seconds.

Blackburn always have Jack Walker's millions to sustain them through a bitter winter, and for Forest, subject all season to takeover speculation, there was a further development yesterday with the board's recommendation of a £13 million bid led by a long-standing supporter, Sandy Anderson.

A former Partick Thistle player, Anderson made £27 million in seven months during the privatisation of the transport industry, selling the Derbyshire train-leasing

company Portarbrook to Stagescoach for £475 million.

The takeover battle is far from settled, however. Forest's financial advisers, Price Waterhouse, still favour a rival bid prepared by a consortium led by a Monte Carlo businessman, Lawrie Lewis, and including the former Spurs chairman Irving Scholar.

They have vowed to approach the shareholders directly and that could extend the uncertainty deep into the new year.

That, though, was off the pitch. Forest's priority was points and Stuart Pearce had marked his 50th league game by declaring Forest would not endure a second relegation in four years. A juddering early tackle against Gary Flitcroft was enough to dissuade anybody from open disagreement and his penalty, in first-half stoppage time, even made his words credible.

The award came when Chris Allen was clumsily brought down by Jeff Kenna on the right of Blackburn's defence. Pearce rammed in the penalty with an expression that could turn an entire

crowd to stone.

The absence of Woon, the latest Forest player to be the subject of transfer speculation, had removed the last semblance of creativity from their midfield and the first half was half-over before



Clark... in the hot seat

either side threatened. Forest's Kevin Campbell ran at Colin Hendry and was brought down on the right-hand angle of the area; Pearce's wickedly swerving free-kick cleared Blackburn's bar by inches.

Then Pearce, a wondrously inspirational figure, put in a reckless tackle on Gallacher right by the touchline that was a frightening miscalculation. Tim Sherwood, incensed, raced 10 yards and seemed to throw a punch. A less lenient referee than Mr Alcock would have dismissed both players, but he settled for two yellow cards.

McKinlay, just as ferocious on Hasland a minute later, and Campbell, late on Kenna, were also booked by half-time.

The insecurities of both teams were heightened by a strong binary wind and the more frantic the game became the more Forest prospered. Hendry was deceived on more than one occasion but what the wind created, neither Campbell nor Dean Saunders could complete.

An error by Steve Chettle

almost allowed Rovers to steal the lead seven minutes before half-time. Gallacher intercepting his misplaced pass from defence and quickly transferring to Sherwood, whose first-time shot was pushed aside by a bulky figure in stomach-churning dry-gro orange, otherwise known as Mark Crossley, the Forest goalkeeper.

Forest's toil was evident as Blackburn, in flashes, possessed the greater fitness and 12 minutes into the second half they were in front. Gallacher equalised with an instant finish from 10 yards after Le Sau's flick with the outside of his left foot had completed an intricate movement.

Then, before Forest could steady themselves, Wilcox scored at the far post after Crossley had pushed Gallacher's rasping shot into his path.

Forest were convinced they had equalised on the hour when Flowers failed to gather Phillipe's corner and Blatherwick forced the ball over the line only for the referee to disallow his effort, presumably

for handball, after consulting an assistant.

Hasland's downward header from Lytle's cross then bounced against the bar, bringing a courageous clearing header by Hendry, and both Hasland and Rovers' Sutton spurned fine chances as the contest became increasingly feverish.

Nottingham Forest: Crossley; Lytle, Chettle, Blatherwick (Lee, 67min), Pearce, Cooper, Hasland, Phillips, Allen, Saunders (Roy, 76, Campbell).

Blackburn: Rovers; Flowers; Kenna, Hendry, Berg, Le Sau, Sherwood, Flitcroft, McKinlay, Gallacher, Sutton, Wilson.

Referee: P Alcock (Redhill).

## Too easy just to tear the FA off a strip



Richard Williams

I DON'T know what you're all getting so upset about, I really don't. The way I look at it, the chaps at the Football Association are practically providing a social service. I mean, if they didn't change the England kit every five minutes, the fans would still be spending money. And on what? Soft drugs and Spice Girls posters, probably. Graham Kelly should get a knighthood. And as for that David Mellor...

Well, no, not really. It was the sheer commercial viciousness of the FA's latest strip change that upset people, and no wonder. The timing was calculated to cause maximum damage to the wallets of anyone who follows England with enough devotion to buy such things, representing a blatant exploitation of innocent emotions like enthusiasm, loyalty and patriotism.

We live in a free-market economy, set up in such a way as to encourage manufacturers and retailers to maximise their takings in all circumstances. First Mrs Thatcher legitimised avarice, then the National Lottery institutionalised it. Between them they officially removed greed from the list of deadly sins. So, if Kelly and his minions have indeed provided a service in recent days, it is by provoking a furor which reminds us that the acceptance of financial rapacity has its limits, after all, even in the minds of the English citizenry of the mid-1990s.

What the affair also calls into question is the nature and role of the FA, of its internal balance between the requirement to operate on a sound commercial footing and its essential function as an administrator of services *pro bono publico*.

Thanks to the legacy of Thatcherism, the idea of giving something back to society has been almost wholly expunged from the conscience of anyone engaged in the world of commerce. After all, if there is no such thing as society, how can you give something back to it? The only imperative is to produce profits, and a dividend for the shareholders. From that, or so we are taught, all else will flow.

The FA, set up more than a

century ago to do no more than look after the game, has caught the bug. It could hardly have done otherwise, given the temptations created by the wealth flooding into the game.

Of course, such commercial awareness has its beneficial side. Visitors to the FA's Lancaster Gate headquarters leave with an impression of an efficiently run organisation which blends a proper respect for the illustrious past — a suggestion of oak panelling, a vista of trophy cabinets bulging with cups, vases, shields and other memorabilia — with a recognition of the need to keep abreast of the rapidly changing culture of sport in general and football in particular.

On balance, too, its modernisation strategies have been a success. The FA's role in the renovation of so many stadiums, its support of the launch of the Premier League and its carefully staged relationship with satellite television, combined with an improved stewardship of the senior international XI, have pushed the English game back into something approaching its former standing.

But someone has to be there to identify the moment at which the balance is lost, and to say enough is enough.

When a greenish stripe appeared on the England kit last year, at about the same time as the insurance company Green Flag became the team's chief sponsor, I began to feel the tail might be wagging the dog. So far as I am aware, England's colours are white, red and blue. Green belongs elsewhere.

Nobody said anything about that. But now the FA's commercial department really has let things go too far and is in inelegant retreat.

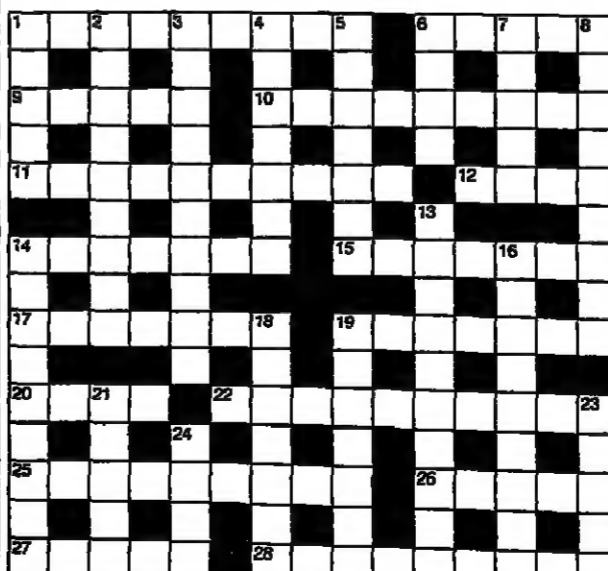
PERHAPS we shouldn't get too pious about it. Our society loves brand names, logos and peer-group identification with such fervour that it will take a sociologist as yet unborn to devise a satisfactory explanation. It's a relatively harmless addiction.

And most children want whatever they think they stand a chance of getting. From a Big Mac with extra fries to an Apple Mac with all the trimmings. Saying no at the right time is a parent's responsibility, as is accompanying the denial with an honest explanation of the reasons.

The FA has a duty to remember what it is there for, and to act responsibly. But instead of expecting it to provide us with a definition of materialism's acceptable limits, perhaps we should be taking a harder look at ourselves.

## Guardian Crossword No 20,820

Set by Crispa

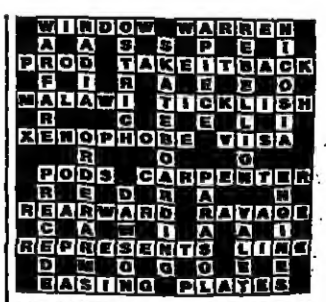


### Across

- 1 Painter set against firm (9)
- 6 Always after small cut (5)
- 9 Referring to a young woman as a queen (5)
- 10 Return of couples considered, but not all together (5)
- 11 Endeavour to introduce force (10)
- 12 A bird in danger — nearly extinct (4)
- 14 Forms a secret organisation (7)
- 15 Far from cool (7)
- 17 No way to hold court in a metropolitan area (7)
- 19 Butlers unfortunately talk big (7)
- 20 The fool may be seen about a good deal (4)
- 22 Cope with direction and angle (10)

### Down

- 1 Few put inside mind — that's cutting (9)
- 2 Personal covering for retirement (5)
- 3 The afflicted tire a lot. No allowance is made (10)
- 4 Restaurants the brethren ring first (7)
- 5 Once sat for a picture in the nude (7)
- 6 Cupid may be sent up with some irritation (4)
- 7 Choosy individual making his mark (5)



Crossword solutions 20,819

- 8 Rubicund character of great importance (3-6)
- 13 Taking on a certain braggadocio (10)
- 14 A man forced into private service (9)
- 16 Assign property (5)
- 18 Put out — used badly, though obliging (7)
- 19 The peak is over, which is a blessing (7)
- 21 Small nothing disagreeable (5)
- 23 Got an assembly to dance (5)
- 24 Pain in the stomach, entirely due to stress (4)

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## Charlton player positive for drugs cocktail

Neil Robinson

AN 18-year-old Charlton Athletic footballer was yesterday suspended indefinitely after testing positive for a cocktail of drugs including cocaine, cannabis and Ecstasy.

Jay Notley, a first-year professional, was charged with misconduct by the Football Association. Both Ecstasy and cocaine are class A substances, the latter being considered performance enhancing.

Notley, who faces a lengthy ban when he appears before an FA disciplinary commission, was tested by the doping control unit which visited Charlton's training ground on November 4 — two days after he returned from a month's loan with Dagenham and Redbridge, the ICS Premier League club.

He is the third Charlton player to be caught by the random tests. The teenagers Dean Chandler and Lee Bowyer, who has since moved to Leeds, were or-

dered to have drug counselling after their positive tests for cannabis. Another Charlton player Craig Sloan publicly admitted drug abuse but has never been charged.

The last footballer to be convicted of cocaine abuse, Orient's Roger Stanislaus, was banned for a year and sacked by his club. Earlier this month the former Sussex cricketer Ed Giddins had his appeal rejected against a 19-month ban imposed for cocaine abuse.

The FA's spokesman Steve

Double said: "It is the first time we have come across a cocktail of drugs like this, so it is obviously a serious matter." He claimed, however, that football is winning the fight against drugs.

This season we have stepped up our testing to around 500 and this is the first positive result from around 300 already carried out, which is encouraging. But we cannot afford to be complacent.

However, last year a survey on drug abuse among footballers for a television documentary reported that

one in four footballers at London clubs admitted having taken drugs, and nine out of 10 said they had been approached.

Charlton's manager Alan Curbishley said: "We are very disappointed. After the Lee Bowyer situation we have worked very closely with the FA and drug awareness talks here for everyone and we have been doing in-house drug testing. The players at this football club know they are going to be tested."

**"Sigmund Freud might have had something to say about the gourds," speculated Boston. That's what happens in the world of Glen Baxter. You find yourself talking in inverted commas and doing unaccustomed things like speculating. Minutes later I was surmising.**  
Richard Boston on Glen Baxter

Portrait G2 page 4

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